

Amal-Hizbollah war continues

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival militias battled with artillery and rockets in South Lebanon Friday, ignoring a plea by Iran's president to stop fighting. Police said four people were wounded in midday clashes that pitted the Amal militia against fundamentalists of Hizbollah. Both sides hammered each other's positions in Al Iqlim Al Tuffah, a former apple-growing district, with mortars, 106-mm recoilless guns and rocket-propelled grenades, a police spokesman said. The battle focused on the northwestern edge of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" but dwindled into sniper fire and occasional rocket blasts before sundown, according to the spokesman. The spokesman said two of the wounded were Amal militiamen and another Hizbollah. The fourth casualty was a 21-year-old woman was wounded when a stray shell fell near her house in Jbaa. In Tehran, the Iranian president, Ali Khamenei, declared "vengeance will not solve anything in Lebanon," the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. "I address our Lebanese brothers in Amal and Hizbollah to end the bloodshed," Khamenei said in the report, monitored in Nicosia.

Jordan Times

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Qian: Time ripe for Sino-Soviet summit

BELGRADE (R) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Friday a Sino-Soviet summit may be held in China in the first half of this year. Qian made the remark in a lecture at the end of a three-day visit to Belgrade, before flying to Paris with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar for an international conference on chemical weapons. "Conditions are ripe for a visit to China by Soviet state and party leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the first half of the year," Qian said. The summit has been mentioned several times by China previously without specifying dates. A Soviet bloc diplomat here said Gorbachev was likely to travel to Peking to meet Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping by May. Qian had talks with Loncar on bilateral and global issues and the Non-Aligned Movement. Belgrade will be the movement's leader later this year and will host its September summit. Qian said in his lecture at the Belgrade Centre of Strategic Studies that China's relations with the United States were good but could improve further if the Taiwan problem was solved. He said "peace and development" have become the "trends of our time" but he warned that superpower rivalry was continuing, that no regional conflict had been fully solved and new ones could easily break out.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein receives the King Hussein Prize for show jumping in Friday's annual horse race organised by the Arab Horse Club (Petra photo)

King Hussein attends annual horse race

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday attended the annual horse race organised by the Arab Horse Club for the benefit of the Queen Alia Centre for the Hearing Impaired. Taking part in the race was Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, who won the first prize — the King Hussein Cup — in show jumping.

The King presented prizes to the winners who included Maha Romsis who won the Princess Alia Cup. Attending the event were His Royal Highness Prince Ali, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and his wife and the wife of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

AROUND THE WORLD...

Saudi crown prince in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz arrived in Damascus Friday for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, official sources said. They said he would discuss Arab affairs including the Lebanese and the Palestinian issues. Assad visited Saudi Arabia last month and held talks with King Fahd.

Waldegrave to confer with PLO in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Britain's Secretary of State at the Foreign Office William Waldegrave will have official contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis next week, the British embassy said. Waldegrave, scheduled to visit Tunis from Jan. 12 to 16, will also have talks with members of the Tunisian government and with Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

SLA position attacked

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiaman was wounded Friday when resistance fighters attacked a militia post in South Lebanon, an SLA spokesman said. The spokesman, speaking on the SLA-run Voice of the South Radio station monitored in this eastern Bekaa Valley town, said the militiaman was wounded when fighters attacked an SLA position in the town of Jezzine.

Fire in Kuwait scout camp kills one

KUWAIT (R) — A 15-year-old boy scout was killed and three others wounded, one critically, when a fire broke out in their tent at dawn Friday, the Kuwait news agency said. Security sources said the fire at a Ministry of Education campground in the Kabd region was caused by a candle, the agency reported.

Norway to expel Afghans seeking asylum

OSLO (R) — Norway said Friday it would expel three Afghans seeking political asylum, the first time Afghans have been rejected by a country increasingly closing its doors to refugees. A spokesman for the directorate for foreigners said the three, detained by police this week, would be sent back to Pakistan, from where they arrived. The directorate said they did not qualify for political asylum in Norway and should apply in Pakistan, where they first arrived last September, for asylum in that country. Their lawyer, Steinar Gimsbol, said the three would appeal.

Hoss seeks Arab help for reconciliation

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's acting prime minister, vying for power with a rival military government, urged the Arab League Friday to help to reconcile warring factions in his country. Salim Hoss told a news conference that his government had sent a memorandum to Arab League member states, whose foreign ministers meet in Tunis Jan. 11 to discuss the Lebanese crisis. Sources close to the league said the ministers would also urgently consider the row between the United States and Libya following the shooting down of two Libyan jets Wednesday. "The only way out of the (Lebanese) crisis is by laying the ground for reconciliation on the basis of equal shares in the sectarian political system," Hoss quoted his message as saying.

Italian ship in Beirut to remove waste

BEIRUT (R) — An Italian ship arrived in Beirut Friday to remove chemical waste from Italy dumped in Lebanon more than a year ago, a militia official said. Kaisar Nasr, head of the foreign affairs department of the "Lebanese Forces" militia, said the ship Jilly Rosso docked at the official port in east Beirut at noon. More than 2,400 tonnes of foul-smelling waste from Italy have been sent to Lebanon, mainly to east Beirut, since September 1987. Panic spread among Lebanese when the news of the operation became public in May and most of the waste contained in barrels was moved to Beirut port.

Rebel groups ignore Sri Lankan election

COLOMBO (R) — Nearly 20 Sri Lankan parties have named candidates for next month's general election but the two main rebel groups ignored calls to take part, official and political sources said on Friday. They said that when registration ended Friday the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of the north and the left-wing People's Liberation Front from the south had not responded to appeals by new President Ransinghe Premadasa that they join the democratic process. The LTTE, fighting for an independent state for minority Tamils in the north and east, has vowed to continue its armed campaign. The front, mainly members of the majority Sinhalese community, has put up posters saying a presidential election last month was a fraud and the parliamentary poll would be the same.

Meets Arafat, underlines need for unified stand

King reaffirms full support for PLO moves

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday reiterated Jordan's full support for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moves to seek international support, and underlined the need for further efforts based on a unified and coordinated Arab stand.

At a meeting with Yasser Arafat, King Hussein congratulated the PLO chairman on the PLO's recent achievements in gathering international support, and said the PLO's recent moves demonstrated the ability of the Palestinian leadership to tackle this issue in a reasonable manner and with national awareness, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The PLO leader, who arrived here Friday morning, briefed King Hussein on the latest Palestinian moves on the international level and the positive results of his meetings with the heads of state during his recent visits.

The King's meeting with Arafat, which included a working lunch, was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh in addition to the King's special advisor

Amer Khammash. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, Abdul Razzak Al Yahya, Mohammad Milhem and Bishop Elia Khouri.

The King later held a closed door meeting with Arafat.

Prime Minister Rifai held a round of talks with the PLO leaders Friday.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman, who is accompanying Arafat on his visit, said King Hussein and the PLO chairman discussed efforts aimed at convening an international peace conference on the Middle East as well as the need for an Arab summit.

"A summit is more than just a necessity to support the Palestinian political initiative and to put

(Continued on page 2)

Bethlehem observes strike to mark orthodox Christmas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in Bethlehem and the surrounding mostly Christian villages observed a general strike Friday to mark the day orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas. Graffiti painted on buildings called for an escalation of the year-long Palestinian uprising.

Also Friday, police said they suspected Palestinian nationalists were responsible for the killing of an Israeli shot to death in the occupied West Bank the night before.

Merchants shuttered their businesses and all public transportation was halted in Bethlehem and the nearby villages of Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour in compliance with calls for a general strike issued by leaders of the uprising.

The strike was called to coin-

cide with Friday's celebration of the Orthodox Christmas. A procession through Bethlehem by the Greek Orthodox patriarch was subdued and the Biblical town was empty of traditional Christmas decorations.

A cluster of about 70 Greek Orthodox worshippers, almost all of them Palestinians, attended Christmas mass at the Church of the Nativity, built on the site where Jesus is said to have been born.

Jewish settlers were in an uproar Friday over the killing of the Israeli.

As Israeli forces combed Palestinian villages for suspects, police said they were still unsure whether the man, Shimon Edri, 41, of Petah Tikva, was killed for criminal or political reasons. Edri, who had a criminal record, was shot twice in the chest.

His body was found Thursday night by a road near the Jewish settlement of Yakir. He was buried Friday.

The army said it closed off the area, 25 kilometres southwest of Nablus.

A police spokesman did not rule out a criminal motive. He suggested Jews might have murdered Edri and dumped his body in the West Bank to pin suspicion on Palestinians.

An army spokesman said there had been no attempts by settlers to "retaliate" Friday. On Thursday night, the army said troops removed a group of settlers who had entered Kif Harith village to attack Arab residents and property.

Youths from the nearby settlement of Ariel burned tyres at the entrance to the village and threw stones at passing cars driven by Arabs.

On Thursday, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 21 Palestinians in clashes in the occupied territories, most of them in a battle with stone-throwing protesters in the Gaza Strip.

Hospital officials said 19 Palestinians were hit by live ammunition and plastic bullets during a confrontation at Sha'ti refugee camp in Gaza.

A doctor at Ahli hospital said the emergency ward was crowded with people who had rushed to donate blood.

Soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians in Ramallah and in Kufir Labad village in the West Bank during clashes with stone-throwing residents.



His Majesty King Hussein Friday confers with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Petra photo)

Khasawneh: Jordan-PLO ties excellent, free from all doubts

By Abdul Rahman Abboushi,
Yousef Al Abssi and Majid Asfour

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Friday described relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as excellent and said Jordan's decision last year to sever legal and administrative relations with the West Bank had removed all suspicions and doubts that the Palestinians had over Jordan's intentions.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Khasawneh said the Jordanian decision to cut formal links with the West Bank was taken in accordance with clear national considerations, eliminating Palestinian doubts that Jordan had territorial ambitions in the West Bank and Gaza and was competing with the PLO for representation of the Palestinian



Dr. Hani Khasawneh

people.

Khasawneh pointed out that Jordan had always said that it would not be involved in any kind of unity between the two banks before a Palestinian state was created and that it would support any decision taken by the PLO on the Palestinian question.

"Jordan's decision also served as an opportunity to strengthen and support the PLO," the minister said. "His Majesty King Hussein and Jordan played a major role in explaining the Palestinian position and also contributed to transferring the (1988) special U.N. session on Palestine from New York to Geneva so that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat could address the meeting," Khasawneh said.

The Jordanian move to sever formal ties with the West Bank assured the Palestinian people that Jordan had no aspirations in Palestine and that it supports them and works with them to find a solution to the Palestinian question, he said.

"They have also realised that Jordan is keen on safeguarding national unity and that the Kingdom, as an Arab country, is

(Continued on page 2)

Libyans await American attack on disputed plant

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Workers occupying a factory at the centre of the U.S. dispute with Libya said in remarks published Friday they were prepared to die in an anticipated American military strike.

"We accept the challenge and we want the blood of the Arabs to mix here on this sacred soil under the banner of (Libyan leader) Muammar Qaddafi," said a foreigner who joined the sit-in at the factory in Rabta, 60 kilometres southwest of Tripoli.

The newspaper Jamahiriya, published by Libya's revolutionary committee, said people from all over the country marched to Rabta to take part in the demonstration and "welcome death in defiance of the American threats."

The United States and Britain contend that they have proof that Libya intends to produce chemical weapons at the Rabta plant. Libya says it will make medicines. U.S. warplanes shot down two Libyan jets over the Mediterranean Wednesday, reinforcing Lib-

yan expectations that the United States will launch a preemptive raid on the factory.

"If they attack, I swear the story of Vietnam will repeat itself here in Libya. Crazy Reagan hasn't learnt the lesson of 1966," one of the workers, Mohammad Milad Souf, told Jamahiriya.

U.S. planes raided Tripoli and the city of Benghazi in April 1986 in retaliation for the alleged Libyan role in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by U.S. servicemen. Libya said it had nothing to do with the bombing.

Arab League foreign ministers will meet Wednesday to discuss the crisis between the United States and Libya, sources close to the league said in Tunis Friday.

An urgent meeting of the league's ministerial council was requested by Libya.

Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi conveyed Libya's request to other members of the

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan voices solidarity with Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday expressed Jordan's solidarity with Libya after American fighters shot down two Libyan jets.

Khasawneh, quoted by Radio Monte Carlo, said Jordan felt deep concern about Wednesday's Mediterranean clash.

Jordan's support for Libya was based on "nationalist ties and the Joint Arab Defence Pact," he said.

Jordan condemned the use of force and urged restraint to allow diplomatic action. Increased tension did not serve the recent improvement in the atmosphere of Arab-U.S. relations, he added.

Jordan leads Arab efforts to include ban on chemicals in disarmament strategy

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will spearhead efforts to coordinate a common Arab position at the Jan. 7-11 international conference on chemical weapons, a position based on the principle that a ban on chemical weapons should be part of an overall disarmament strategy that includes nuclear arms, according to a senior Jordanian official.

"We stand by the priorities agreed upon at the first disarmament session of the U.N. General Assembly which concentrated on atomic weapons and put a ban on nuclear arms as the highest priority," said the official who preferred anonymity.

"Any consideration of chemical weapons will have to be dealt with in the context of total disarmament and prohibition of the use of atomic weapons as well," he added.

The conference, which

opens in Paris Saturday, will seek to encourage negotiations in Geneva to reach a general prohibition on the production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons. The 1925 Geneva protocol, signed by more than 110 countries, prohibits only the use of such weapons. The one-page document contains no provision for sanctions and has long been viewed as inadequate. Jordan signed the protocol in 1977.

"One objective of the conference is to give a new impetus to negotiations in Geneva on a new convention to prohibit the production and transfer of chemical weapons," said a Western diplomat who did not want to be identified.

He said the conference would seek to support the powers of the U.N. General Secretariat on investigating cases involving the use of chemical weapons. States which have not yet adhered to the protocol will be encouraged to do so at the conference, the diplomat

added.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan proposed the conference during an address to the U.N. General Assembly in September. On Dec. 29, French President Francois Mitterrand called for the convening of the conference in Paris, depository of the 1925 protocol.

The conference is convened against the background of a campaign by the U.S. accusing Libya of having a chemical weapons plant 96 kilometres southwest of Tripoli. Libya says the facility is a pharmaceutical plant. U.S. officials said the downing of two Libyan planes in the Mediterranean earlier this week was unrelated to the claims about the chemical plant, and that any "military action" against the plant would be unlikely until after the Paris conference.

Some analysts believe the conference may be used for propaganda purposes against Arab countries. "There is also

a trend to emphasise the 'danger' of chemical weapons on Israel because of recent statements by different parties implying that some Arab countries possess chemical weapons and ground-to-ground missiles that could reach any place within Israel," one Arab analyst said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem is heading Jordan's delegation to the conference. Prior to his departure, Qasem expressed hope that the conference would come up with results to save humanity from destructive weapons. He said Arab countries are at a grave risk from such weapons, from both east and west sides of the Middle East.

The five-day conference is expected to issue a political declaration which, it is hoped, will be adopted by consensus. "It is not the aim of the conference to judge any country or put any one on trial," the Western diplomat commented.

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Iraq says Iran massing troops, warns of fighting

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused Iran Friday of massing troops along the border with Iraq and said they could spark renewed Gulf war fighting following an August ceasefire.

"We warn Iranian rulers (against) mobilising troops at our borders or repeating threats to resume the war to achieve political aims," Hussein said in an Army Day television and radio broadcast.

"We will not deal with (the troops) as a political ploy but as a real threat and real readiness to resume the aggression and war," he said.

Iraq would consider taking measures in self-defence, he said. The August 20 U.N.-brokered ceasefire has been marred so far by only minor reports of violations by both sides.

Hussein, appearing in civilian clothes for the first time on Army Day since the war began in 1980, said Iran was flouting U.N. Resolution 598 calling for peace and was responsible for lack of progress in peace talks.

He urged the international community to beware of Iranian intentions.



Saddam Hussein

He repeated Iraq's position that Iran had started the war in September 1980 and urged Arab countries, which mostly backed Iraq in the conflict, to continue to show support.

Hussein said the Arab League should ensure that Lebanon held free elections to choose a president.

He added that Iraq would support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) against what he said were attempts to blackmail it and influence its decisions.

Referring to a meeting on chemical warfare opening in Paris Saturday, Hussein said Iraq affirmed its adherence to a 1925 Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical gases.

Hussein said: "Iraq stresses its adherence to the protocol but this moral and legal adherence does not mean that we belittle the components of our national security."

He said Israel possessed nuclear and chemical weapons that could reach many Arab cities, threatening regional security.

"For these basic reasons Iraq will not tolerate issues that might weaken its capability to protect its security when it is faced by an aggression," he said.

"I call on all Arab countries to adopt a unified stand in this field and at the Paris conference," he said.



ON PATROL — Syrian soldiers patrol southern Beirut suburbs after moving in earlier this week to disengage warring fighters of the Amal militia and Hizbollah.

New border marker puts Taba back in Egypt — almost

TABA, Egypt (R) — Proud Egyptian and sorrowful Israeli soldiers have placed the last red-and-white border marker on a hill overlooking the disputed Red Sea beach at Taba.

An Israeli flag flapping from an observation post near Taba is now overshadowed by the marker, a cement block topped by a pole.

Troops planted it Wednesday, ending years of dispute over where it should stand but leaving other problems to be solved before Egypt finally exercises sovereignty over the strip, one of the most popular beaches near Eilat.

"This occasion is a special and historic moment for Egypt," Egyptian Consul Ahmed Al-Messari told reporters.

An Israeli soldier standing nearby was not so enthusiastic. "It is too bad Taba will return to Egypt," he said. "We have no choice. We have to follow orders and hope for the best."

An international panel of arbitrators in Geneva issued a binding verdict on the location of the marker last September which effectively gave Egypt sovereignty over the 700-metre strip, seized by Israel during the 1967 war.

Israel kept Taba after it returned the rest of the Sinai peninsula to Egypt in 1982 under the terms of its 1979 treaty with Cairo. The beach has been a thorn in relations since then.

Multinational Force Observers (MFO), who police the Sinai to guarantee the peace, explained there were still obstacles to free Egyptian access to the beach.

MFO Mike Burford pointed to about 200 metres of land between the border marker and vivid blue waters of the Gulf of Aqaba.

"Although we are now on Egyptian soil, the line between this once-disputed border marker and the sea has not yet been decided," he said.

Ownership of Taba's five-star Avia Sonesta hotel, built by

Israel in the shadow of the Sinai Mountains, is another point of contention.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said talks with Israel would take place Saturday to discuss the hotel and an adjoining holiday beach camp.

Egypt, which has vowed to reject any solution that does not give it absolute sovereignty and control over Taba, had offered to buy the hotel and run it jointly.

But Israel rejected the offer, which would have given Egypt majority ownership and the right to provide 90 per cent of the employees.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials appeared optimistic about a settlement.

"The Egyptian flag will fly over Taba very soon and the withdrawal (of Israeli soldiers) will take place soon," said one official, who requested anonymity.

But until a withdrawal is agreed, Egyptians must get clearance from Israeli guards to enter the site.

Khomeini's message to Soviet leader was 'prophetic call'

NICOSIA (R) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini acted in the tradition of the Prophet Mohammad when he sent a message inviting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to study Islam, according to the Iranian leader's personal messenger.

Ayatollah Abdullah Javadi Amoli, who handed the message to Gorbachev in Kremlin Wednesday, said on Iranian television Thursday night:

"The Prophet issued messages to guide all societies. He sent delegations. The Imam (Khomeini) did what the Prophet used to do."

Amoli returned to Tehran after delivering the message in which Iran's spiritual leader said communism belonged to museums and called on the Soviet leader to stop fighting God.

Amoli and other members of the delegation to Moscow reported Thursday to Khomeini on their mission, the television said.

The television quoted Khomeini's son and chief aide Ahmad as saying the ayatollah had told Gorbachev in the message that he was wrong to look to politics and economics as key areas of reform.

"The main problem of your country is not ownership, economy or freedom. Your problem is lack of belief in God, the same problem which has brought or will bring the West to decadence and impasse also," Ahmad quoted the message as saying.

According to Ahmad's account, Khomeini urged Gorbachev to discard his predecessors' policy of undermining religion.

Asked if he discussed Gorbachev's reforms in Moscow, Amoli replied: "Yes, there were some discussions of those changes which are not unrelated to the upheavals of the Islamic revolution under the leadership of His Eminence the Imam (Khomeini)." He did not elaborate.

Another member of Khomeini's delegation to Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani, hailed the message as the first comprehensive one sent by Khomeini to any foreign leader.

Quoted by the television, Larjani said Gorbachev had declared the desire of the Soviet leadership to expand political and economic ties with Tehran and take part in Iran's reconstruction after the Gulf war with Iraq.

King reaffirms support for PLO moves

(Continued from page 1)

into practice the Algiers summit resolution supporting of the intifada," Abdul Rahman told the Jordan Times. He said an Arab summit would serve to strengthen Arab efforts towards convening an international peace conference.

Abdul Rahman said the common Arab stand, represented mainly by a unified Arab vote to move the 1988 U.N. General Assembly session on Palestine to Geneva, had reflected positively on the international scene.

"We will continue our peace offensive until we achieve a comprehensive world consensus on the Palestinian initiative for

peace and to torpedo Israel's position worldwide," the PLO spokesman said.

The recently launched PLO-U.S. talks, he said, are aimed at figuring out means and ways of reaching a comprehensive peace in the region. The talks, he said, will establish the main guidelines to negotiations at an international peace conference. He asserted however, that the intifada was not a question to be discussed during negotiations. "It (the intifada) will continue as long as the occupation is there," he said.

Abdul Rahman said the PLO only stood to gain from the latest peace offensive and that Israel was in "isolation" worldwide.

"We have presented the Palestinian credentials to participate in the international peace conference," Abdul Rahman said. "No one, not even the U.S., is asking anything more of us. They are now asking if of Israel."

The PLO spokesman said the formation of a government for the state of Palestine was contingent upon international developments — namely the convening of an international conference, with the participation of the PLO on equal footing with other parties.

"There is no obstacle to the formation of the government... a government will be formed once the conditions necessary for it to be formed are present," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

France to upgrade PLO delegation in Paris

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand Thursday announced plans to upgrade soon the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation to France. Mitterrand told a news conference the change would give the PLO delegation in Paris "greater protection" without according it full diplomatic status. He reaffirmed that France had no objection in principle to recognising a Palestinian state but that such a state must have clearly-defined boundaries. Mitterrand said the declaration of a state and PLO leader Yasser Arafat's decision to recognise Israel's existence were "a big step forward."

AUB classes resume after strike

BEIRUT (R) — Students at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in west Beirut returned to classes Friday after a three-day strike to demand an end to support for the university's branch in east Beirut. AUB spokesman Radwan Mawlawi told Reuters classes resumed in the morning, one day after contacts between university officials, Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and senior Syrian officers. A group of students calling themselves the Permanent Student Committee to Preserve the Unity of AUB said Wednesday the east Beirut branch, known as the Off-Campus Programme (OCP), was a threat to the 123-year-old university and its academic standards.

Egyptian in Cyprus sets himself alight

LIMASSOL (R) — An Egyptian living in the Cypriot town of Limassol set his clothes on fire in protest against the downing of two Libyan jets by U.S. fighters, police said Thursday. Mustafa Abdul Medgid, who is being treated in hospital for burns to his back, shoulders and hands, said he set himself alight Wednesday when he heard news of the attack, police said. They said his Cypriot wife found him on the floor of their home and called the neighbours for help. Hospital sources said his condition was not serious.

Lahd to resume SLA command soon

HAIFA (R) — General Antoine Lahd, commander of an Israeli-backed militia in southern Lebanon, said Thursday he would soon resume command of his unit after being wounded in an assassination attempt in November. Lahd, 61, gave the first public account of the attack in an interview with Reuters two days after leaving an Israeli hospital. He said the Lebanese woman who shot him, Suha Bshara, would be tried before a court-martial of his South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. Closely guarded by Lebanese and Israeli security men in an Israeli hotel, Lahd recalled when Bshara fired two shots at him in his living room: "We were sitting virtually facing one another and at one point I turned to the side. When I turned back to face her, she had a revolver at the end of her outstretched arm, inches from my chest, and opened fire," he said, mimicking the gesture. "I disarmed her myself," he added. Bshara, 21, a secret member of the Lebanese Communist Party, had befriended his wife to gain access to their home. She taught in a youth club run by Lahd's wife. Lahd said: "I did not know her well."

U.S. may shift jet training to Morocco

RAMSTEIN (AP) — The U.S. air force is exploring the possibility of moving some jet fighter training missions to Morocco as one of the ways to ease the burden over densely populated West Germany, the air force's European chief said Thursday. General William L. Kirk spoke amid a growing controversy in West Germany, hit by a series of military crashes that have fired up popular opinion against military training missions. Kirk, in an interview with the AP, also staunchly defended the need to keep up low-level training to have a "mission-ready" force in Central Europe. "We're looking at the possibility of moving some training missions to Morocco," Kirk said in his office in the sprawling U.S. air base in Ramstein in the southwestern part of West Germany. The base was the site of a fiery crash of an Italian air force stunt team that killed 70 people last August. The U.S. air force's commander in chief in Europe emphasised that the talks between U.S. and Moroccan officials were at a "very preliminary stage."

Fewer Soviets opt for Israel

GENEVA (AP) — Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union soared to an eight-year high in 1988, but the share of those opting to settle in Israel continued to decline, a Geneva-based resettlement agency said Thursday. Regina Boucault, spokeswoman of the Intergovernmental Committee for Immigration (ICM), said the 3,510 December arrivals at the Vienna transit centre raised the 1988 total to 20,082 Jewish emigrants. Last month, only 114, or 3.2 per cent, said they wanted to continue to Israel, said Boucault. For all of 1988, the share was 7.1 per cent. In 1987, 24.4 per cent of the total of 8,011 chose to go to the Jewish state. Emigration was at an all-time low in 1984, with only 904 Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union. In 1980, 21,470 emigrated. In both years, the share of those going on to Israel was still one third. The 1988 arrivals raised to 281,934 the number of Jewish emigrants since the resettlement programme began in 1971.

Libyans await U.S. attack

(Continued from page 1)

pan-Arab organisation and proposed Jan. 11 for the special council meeting in Tunis.

The Libyan government daily Al-Fair Al-Jadid said the downing of the MiGs by two F-14s was linked to the imminent arrival in the Mediterranean of 13 more U.S. warships.

"This shows clearly that the United States intends to attack Libya. They are there to attack Libya and the attack against our planes is proof of this," the newspaper said.

The paper's report of the imminent arrival of 13 U.S. warships in the area appeared to be a

reference to a fleet due to arrive in the Mediterranean next week.

The ships, including the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, are expected to relieve the carrier John F. Kennedy and its battle group.

The U.S. jets involved in Wednesday's air clash flew from the Kennedy. Libya said its MiGs were unarmed reconnaissance planes on a routine mission.

But the United States said videotape showed at least one of the MiGs was armed with missiles. At the U.N., the Soviet Union rejected as "absolutely unfounded" the United States' claim it acted in self-defence in shooting down the planes.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
16:45 Arabic series
17:10 Educational programme
17:30 China children
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 News in Arabic
19:30 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:45 Arabic play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 "Couture: A la Redecouverte du Monde"

19:00 News in French

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:32 Sunrise/Duha
11:41 Dhuhur
14:27 'Asr
16:50 Maghreb
18:12 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and another increase in temperature is expected.

Winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moder-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:

Dr. Nabil Al Maridi 615338

Dr. Yassin Abdul Rahim 726074

Dr. Ahmed Othman 786384

Dr. Mahmoud Al Awadi 741391

Fires pharmacy 661912

Endows pharmacy 783336

Al Asena pharmacy 637025

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 198, 891228

Blood Bank 778303

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 639141

Public Security Directorate 656000 / 685111

Hotel Complaints 605800

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalid Maternity, J. Ana. 642816

AkBeh Maternity, J. Ana. 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fil per kg.

Apple

420 / 380

Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 300

Beans 420 / 360

Broad beans 750 / 650

Cabbage 120 / 80

Carrots 270 / 200

Cailliflower 200 / 140

Cucumbers 350 / 300

Dates 500 / 400

Eggplant (large) 90 / 50

Eggplant (small) 170 / 120

Garlic 300 / 200

Grapefruit 160 / 120

Lemon 200 / 150

Marrow (large) 140 / 100

Marrow (small) 250 / 200

Orange (French) 340 / 280

Orange (Shamouni) 330 / 280

Orange (local) 220 / 160

Onion (dry) 200 / 160

Pepper (hot) 280 / 200

Pepper (sweet) 280 / 200

Potato 120 / 80

Spinach 260 / 200

Mandarin 120 / 80

Tomatoes 260 / 200

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PRINCE FAISAL VISITS GEOGRAPHIC CENTRE: His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Hussein Thursday visited the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre where he was briefed on the centre's establishment, development, and duties. Prince Faisal then toured the various sections of the centre and expressed admiration on its high standard. (Petra)

U.S. ENVOY MEETS MINISTERS: Agriculture Minister Yusuf Hamdan Al Jabr and Supply Minister Dr. Fayez Al Tarawneh Thursday separately received U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roscoe Suddarth. During the two meetings, discussions dealt with the possibility to hold an expanded meeting by a number of Jordanian and U.S. experts in agriculture next week, so as to exchange information on the agricultural developments and to discuss supply and trade relations between the two countries. (Petra)

OMANI AIDE ENDS VISIT: Director General of the Omani Bank for Agriculture and Fishing Sa'd Ibn Mousa Al Juncibi Friday left Amman at the conclusion of a seven-day visit to Jordan during which he was briefed on a number of agricultural projects financed by the Agricultural Credit Corporation in Jordan. (Petra)

ROYAL PAVILLION: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khalid Al Haj Hassan Thursday inspected work underway at the Royal Pavillion in Queen Alia International Airport. It is noteworthy that the pavillion will be officially opened in late January. (Petra)

MINISTER INSPECTS RENOVATION WORK: Culture and National Heritage Minister Mohammad Al Hammouri Thursday inspected work underway at the Andeon in Amman and the steps undertaken to renovate the Roman Amphitheatre. (Petra)

MEMO FROM YUGOSLAVIA: The government has received a memorandum from the Yugoslavian government requesting Jordan's support for the Yugoslav candidate to the post of director of International Consultative Committee for Radio Telecommunication at the International Union of Telecommunication. (Petra)

PSD WARNS DRIVERS: The Public Security Department (PSD) has urged drivers to drive carefully their vehicles in Amman, particularly in its western areas, to avoid skidding in light of the drop in temperatures. (Petra)

AMERICAN TEAM TO ARRIVE: A fifteen-member congressional delegation will arrive in Amman in a few days on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of the World Affairs Council. According to Al Dustour, the delegation will meet with senior officials and participate in an open dialogue on current affairs. (J.T.)

BAD FOOD DESTROYED: The Public Safety Committee Thursday destroyed large amounts of food as their validity expired. The committee urged the citizens to be cooperative and report merchants who sell food with expired validity. (Petra)

SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY ART: The Culture and National Heritage Ministry Thursday held a seminar at the Royal Cultural Centre on the influence of the contemporary trends on plastic art in Jordan. The participants discussed plastic art in Jordan, artistic work and the goal of art. (Petra)

OVERTIME FOR MEDICAL STAFF: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dhoughan Al Hindawi has stressed that owing to the government's interest in promoting medical services, the cabinet decided to let workers in this sector continue receiving their overtime allowances in the same way as it has always been. According to Al Dustour, the minister said that the cabinet would shortly consider further allowances commensurate with job responsibility, the difficulties faced and the location of employment. The paper said this was announced in a speech by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas on behalf of Hindawi at the graduation ceremony of a batch of participants in a course on school health services. (J.T.)

HOTEL MARKETING: The Ministry of Tourism, in cooperation with the Jordan Hotel Association, will hold a seminar on hotel marketing in Amman from Jan. 10 to Jan. 12. A number of officials from the Ministry of Tourism and representatives from Jordanian hotels will take part in the seminar. (Petra)

FIRE IN ZARQA: A fire broke out at a toy shop in Zarqa near the gold market. Al Dustour says that firemen put out the fire and that most of the store contents were destroyed. No losses in life were sustained, the paper said. (J.T.)

IMPORTS OF FRESH MEAT: Ministry of Supply has reported that fresh imported meat will go on sale effective Saturday. This follows a suspension of imports in the wake of the Christmas and New Year holidays. (J.T.)

Decree approves nomination of honorary consul

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the nomination of Izzat Rashed Dajani as Jordan's honorary consul to the Seychelles.

Dajani graduated from De La Salle College in Amman and pursued higher studies at Hastings College of Further Education, Worthing College of Further Education, and Liverpool School of Pharmacy in England, where he acquired his B.Sc. degree in pharmacy.

He has been a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the Jordan Pharmaceutical Association, and the Institute of Pharmacy Management International (G.B.).



Izzat Rashed Dajani

He has also been a member of the executive committee of the Jordan British Society, an active member of its cultural executive sub-committee, and vice chairman of the public relations sub-committee.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

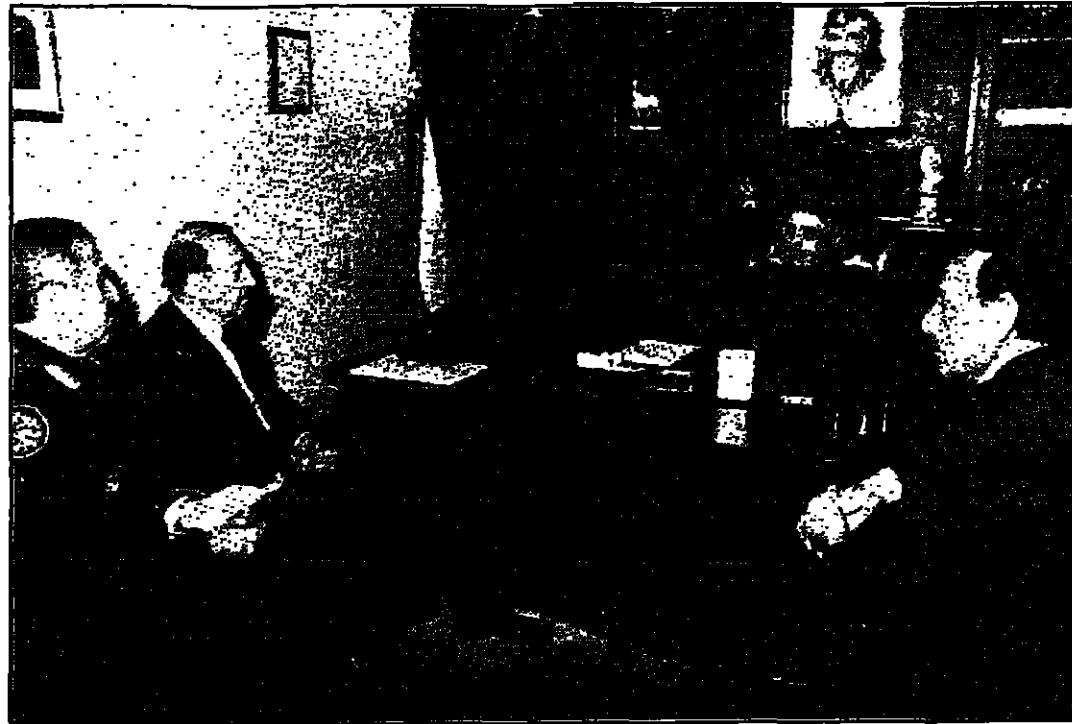
- * An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- * An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madamghah and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "New Muslim Buildings in the Federal Republic of Germany" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "Talk on Media" (in Arabic) by Dia'a Al Deen Al Rifai at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * A German video film for children entitled "Ich Hatte Einen Traum" (I had a dream) at the Goethe Institute — 4:00 p.m.
- * A German video film entitled "Deutschlandspiegel" (The German Scene) at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Chief of the Royal Court, visits the Public Security Department (Petra photo)

Al Hussein praises PSD's efforts to enhance security in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali who briefed him on current plans for promoting the department's activities and services.

King Hussein expressed satisfaction with the department's efforts and voiced appreciation of the PSD's endeavours to enhance the Kingdom's security and stability.

He also commended the high standard of the PSD's qualification and efficiency and its efficient handling of various cases related to public safety and police work in general.

King Hussein, who was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Thursday gave directives to the PSD chief to maintain the momentum of the PSD's efforts and contribute more towards the country's security and stability.

Jordan prepares to mark Arbor Day

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan celebrates Arbor Day with tree planting ceremonies in different parts of the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries have produced thousands of forest and fruit tree saplings to be distributed to individuals, farmers, and organisations to be planted in their regions.

Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber Thursday inspected the main site of the Arbor Day ceremony in the grounds of the new Radio Transmission Station near Kharraneh, some 50 kilometres east of Amman, and checked preparations for the occasion.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture nearly 500 dunums of

land in near the radio station will be planted with forest trees.

The Agriculture Department in Jerash said that it will hold an Arbor Day celebration on Jan. 22. It said that tree planting will take place on a large scale in the Zarqa River Basin and urged all departments and school children to take part in the tree planting process.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan receives Indian Ministry of Railways Secretary Anup Singh in Amman (Petra photo)

Indian railway official ends visit

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Secretary to the government of India at the Ministry of Railway, Mr. Anup Singh, has left for home following meetings here with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and attending a ceremony in Aqaba to inaugurate a workshop which would provide maintenance services to the Aqaba Railway Corporation.

The minister voiced Jordan's desire to further boost its relations and cooperation with India in all fields in general and in transport, railway and sea-ports affairs in particular.

Singh for his part said that his country was deeply satisfied for the facilities given by the Jordanian government to the Indian Railway Construction Corporation which built the maintenance workshop in Aqaba.

Singh and other Indian officials were present at the inauguration ceremony in Aqaba Wednesday.

The workshop which took 18 months to build at the cost of JD 1.5 million was set up on a 3,500-square-metre piece of land, and was designed to provide maintenance services to the Aqaba Railway Corporation's (ARC) locomotives.

Apart from the maintenance

area which is equipped with up to date machinery the complex includes administrative offices, laboratories and affiliated installations.

Haj Hassan said the workshop was needed to cope with the ever-growing volume of rail transport operations and the constant maintenance needed for the 29 locomotives owned by the ARC to transport phosphate from the mines at Hassa to Aqaba where it is loaded on vessels for transport.

NEW MOSQUES IN BALQA: The Awqaf Department in Balqa Governorate Thursday began the construction of a mosque at the Salt Community College at the cost of JD 40,000. The department is currently constructing five mosques in Deir Alla district and Hawd Al Baqa at the cost of JD 87,000. The department completed the construction of six mosques in various parts of the governorate at the cost of JD 111,000. (Petra)

Tabbaa in Muscat for economic committee talks due to start today

MUSCAT (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa has arrived in Muscat to lead Jordan's delegation to the joint Jordanian-Omani Economic Committee which is due to open meetings here Saturday.

The joint committee will discuss cooperation in industry and

trade and means of bolstering Jordanian-Omani cooperation in other fields.

The Omani side to the talks will be led by Mr. Salem Ghazali, the country's minister of trade and industry.

On the eve of his departure for

Oman, Tabbaa reviewed with members of his team topics to be discussed at the Muscat meeting and said that the two sides will discuss the prospect of increasing the sale of Jordan's national products to Oman and the importation of larger quantities of Omani fish through the Ministry of Supply.

Also on the agenda of Saturday's meeting is the question of organising a Jordanian industrial fair in Muscat to help promote the sale of Jordanian vegetables and fruit to Oman and help facilitate the flow of exchanged goods between the two countries.

The question of setting up a joint holding company to serve as an umbrella for implementing joint projects will also be examined at the meeting.

226,754 foreigners reside in Jordan

Non-Jordanians committed 1,047 crimes last year

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Non-Jordanians living in the country last year committed a total of 1,047 crimes ranging from theft to immoral behaviour compared to 1,068 in 1987, according to Colonel Mohammad Tarazi, director of the Alien and Border Posts Division at the Public Security Department (PSD).

He said that crimes associated with immoral behaviour committed by the non-Jordanians in the past year amounted to 112 compared to 76 in 1987.

Tarazi's statement was published by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, coincided with a report in the local press Friday that two non-Jordanians were found to have smuggled heroin inside their bodies.

The report said that the PSD suspected that the two men concealed drugs within their stomachs and were referred to the Al Bashir Hospital in Amman for X-ray and laboratory tests, which revealed the presence of strange objects within their intestines.

As the two refused to admit their guilt they were told that surgical operations would be conducted to extract the unidentified objects, the report said.

Faced with this situation, it added, the two admitted swallowing six tiny bags containing heroin which they smuggled into the country.

Tarazi spoke in an extensive interview conducted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, to discuss the non-Jordanians workers' situation in the Kingdom.

The agency said that the presence of non-Jordanian workers has its negative effect on the local labour market and the national economy. This it said is represented in foreign workers competing with Jordanians for jobs and the continual drain of hard currency.

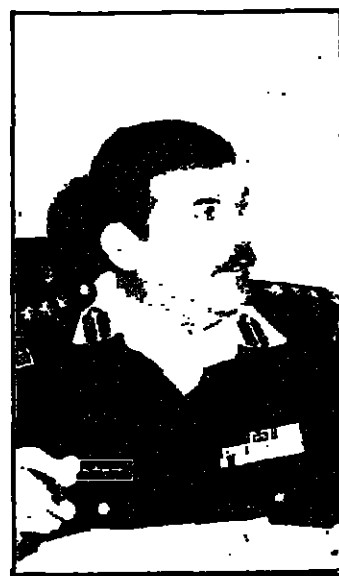
Based on the interviews and official statements the agency estimated that a total of JD 100 million in hard currency is being transferred annually by non-Jordanian workers here to their own country, and Petra added that the non-Jordanian workers were, like Jordanian citizens, benefiting from the subsidised basic food commodities, and in some cases a number of them were causing adverse social and health effects on the Jordanian society.

The government in its drive to find employment for Jordanians and rationalise spending to boost the national economy, has introduced measures to organise the employment of non-Jordanians and imposed fines on those not abiding by Jordanian laws, Petra noted.

At present the government is charging JD 100 for work permits issued to Arab workers not employed in agriculture, up from JD 30 while JD 10 continues to be the rate for work permits for those employed in agriculture.

Non-Arab workers employed in the Kingdom now pay JD 300 for their work permits if they work in fields other than agriculture or nursing, for which they pay JD 50 only.

According to new regulations, employers will have to pay a JD 50 to JD 75 fine for every month in which their non-Jordanian workers failed to get a renewal for work permits or for doing



Col. Mohammad Tarazi

work other than the type for which they had originally been employed.

According to Petra, non-Jordanians are not allowed to work as clerks in offices, accountants, secretaries, typists, telephone operators, or as artists and storekeepers. But the Ministry of Labour in certain cases allows non-Jordanians to work as teachers, drivers, shop assistants, petrol station attendants and technicians.

The ministry allows foreign companies undertaking development projects in the Kingdom to bring in foreign workers to be employed on their projects, the agency quoted.

According to Tarazi, by Dec. 31, 1988, there were a total of 226,754 non-Jordanians living in the Kingdom. He said that these belonged to 146 different nationalities but that 176,602 of whom were Arabs from Egypt, Syria and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Tarazi said that last year, residence permits were issued to 45,733 non-Jordanians coming here as temporary visitors for three months or as students.

Referring to non-Arab workers in the country, Tarazi said that they were from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines most of whom work as domestic servants. Tarazi said that 13,129 of these non-Arabs are now serving as domestic servants and maids.

There is close coordination and cooperation between the Ministries of Labour and Interior concerning the entry of non-Jordanians into the Kingdom.

Customs revenues amount to JD 232,740,913 in 1988

AMMAN (Petra) — Customs revenues in Jordan during the past year amounted to JD 232,740,913 against JD 217,964,971 in 1987, according to Customs Department Director General Adel Qudab.

He said that the Amman Customs Centre had the lion's share of these revenues, collecting JD 92,449,570, followed by Aqaba Customs Centre and Amman Airport.

Teams inspect firms According to Mr. Mohammad Hadidi, director of the Labour Ministry's Amman Employment Department, teams have been assigned the task of carrying out inspection at various firms, companies and institutions to ensure that they abide by the laws concerning the employment of non-Jordanians.

Hadidi said that there had been increasing number of violations due to the fact that some of the workers are doing jobs other than those they applied for upon entry here, or because the employers do not disclose the number of their workers to avoid paying social security fees for them.

The Labour attaché at the Egyptian Embassy here, Mr. Mohammad Al Fateh, said that only 50,000 out of 125,000 Egyptians working in Jordan have paid fees for work permits in the past year and attributed this to the low level wage they get, and the employers insistence that the workers pay their own fees.

Fateh urged all workers to pay their dues to the concerned authorities or face the prospect of being evicted from the country.

He said Egyptians wishing to come to work here should acquire a work permit endorsed by the Ministry of Labour in advance.

According to Hadidi, in the past two weeks the Amman Employment Office were flooded with applications by non-Jordanian Arab workers wishing to renew their permits and pay their dues because they were afraid of being evicted.

The Egyptian labour attaché, for his part, said that a large number of Egyptian workers have now left the country because of the increase in the work permit fees and the decline in the exchange rate after the readjustment of the value of the Jordanian dinar.

This view was backed by Col. Tarazi who said that the border posts and airports lately witnessed an exodus of domestic servants of different nationalities due to the increase in the work permits and the fine imposed on violators of the law.

Tarazi predicted that 1989 will witness a large increase in the number of non-Jordanian people leaving the country especially as Jordanian families employing maids have begun to terminate their services.



Iraqi Armed Forces anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein Thursday held a reception at the Regency Hotel in Amman to mark the 68th anniversary of the Iraqi Armed Forces. Among the guests were Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounqun Hindawi, several cabinet ministers, senior officials, high ranking army officers, as well as military attaches at foreign embassies in Amman

and the speaker of the Palestinian National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh. In Mafrqa a ceremony was held at the Iraqi Martyrs Cemetery and the Iraqi ambassador along with other officials, who were present, recited verses of the Holy Koran while the Armed Forces Band played. The ambassador, the Mafrqa governor and other officials later laid wreaths on the tombs of the martyrs (Petra photo)

11 injured in bus accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eleven passengers of a public transport bus were injured on the Amman-Wadi Seer main road, according to a report in Al Dustour daily.

The report said that the bus skidded on the wet and slippery road and was hurled over its side.

The injured were rushed to hospital by the civil defence men for treatment.

The paper also reported the death of a three-year-old girl and the injury of eight others while riding a bus on the Azraq-Zarqa road.

The report said that injuries were caused as a result of a road accident that involved the bus and that the injured were being treated at the Zarqa Government Hospital.

Jordan Times

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We welcome fair signals

THE ADVENT of the George Bush administration in a few days is generating much interest and optimism worldwide. Bush's credentials as an experienced and seasoned statesman have provoked great expectations in various countries, especially in the Arab World where several regional conflicts that permeate the political fabrics of the North African and Middle Eastern Arab countries still await resolution. Yet the news reports emanating from Washington that President-elect Bush intends or even contemplates sending ex-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to the Middle East to help settle the Arab-Israeli conflict give the Arab side shivers and awe. The Arab anxiety stems from the trail of negative experiences and false expectations that Dr. Kissinger has left behind him in the Middle East during the times when he, as the U.S. Secretary of State, supervised and orchestrated the events and circumstances surrounding the Arab-Israeli conflict in the early seventies. Unless Dr. Kissinger has mellowed ideologically and politically vis-a-vis the Arab side of the Middle Eastern story and can establish beyond a shadow of doubt that he is now fair and balanced towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, there is fear that his arrival to the Middle East scene would provoke suspicions about the real intents of the new U.S. administration.

As the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict took comfort in the expectations that President-elect Bush intends to accord the Middle East regional issues a top priority, they are awaiting impatiently for the kind of signals from Washington that could rekindle hope and conviction that the hard core issues of war and peace in this region would be dealt with fairly and squarely. Should the final verdict of the new administration be to dispatch Dr. Kissinger to us in the Middle East to "patch" up the Palestinian conflict as a high priority issue, are the Arab parties to expect some policy guideline statements from the new projected American envoy that would assure the Arab side that he is no longer blindly committed to the Israeli strategic warfare and security at the expense of Arab security and legitimate aspirations? Above all Dr. Kissinger is called upon to think and plan not only geopolitically but also ethically and morally. The Arab parties are counting on the fact that perhaps with age, Dr. Kissinger is much wiser now than he has ever been. Should this be the case, he would be most welcome to practice his proven talents in our midst.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Friday discussed the downing by U.S. forces of two Libyan aircraft over the Mediterranean which drew worldwide condemnation. The incident has caused an escalation in tension and dealt a hard blow to the current improvement in U.S.-Arab relations, the paper noted. The paper reiterated Minister of Information Hami Khisawneh's statement in which he said that Jordan backs Libya in view of nationalist ties and the joint Arab defence pact. Libya has declared more than once that a plant set up near Tripoli was for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and not for producing chemical weapons as claimed by Washington and has expressed readiness to allow international inspection to prove its stand, the paper said. But it is strange to see Washington resorting to force against Libya at a time when it condones Israel's continued drive to enhance its nuclear capabilities and Tel Aviv's disregard to all international norms and principles, the paper said. It concluded by saying that the U.S. action was a clear provocation against Tripoli and a clear indication that the American administration had not taken one single serious step towards adjusting its policies in the Middle East.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the U.S. for escalating tension in the region by downing two Libyan planes with no justification. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the incident, coming shortly before the convening of an international conference in Paris to tackle the issue of chemical weapons and two weeks before the end of the Reagan administration's mandate can be regarded as violating the spirit of the international detente. The incident, he continues, has prompted Moscow to condemn the action and prompted other nations to express concern over the future of international relations and brought about total condemnation from Arab and Islamic and Third World nations. This American unprovoked action, Rimawi maintains, is a sudden step towards poisoning world atmosphere and is bound to leave very negative effects on East-West ties.

Al Dustour wrote an editorial entitled solidarity with the Libyan people, in which it echoed Jordan's backing for Tripoli in the face of Washington's threats and provocation. Jordan like all Arab countries views Washington's downing of two Libyan planes as an unjustified act of aggression and an open act of war against another country, the paper said. What is more dangerous it said is that the incident came amidst an already tense world atmosphere caused by Washington's accusations against Libya that it produces chemical weapons. Washington's resort to force in dealing with Libya it added can only be interpreted as another move by the U.S. to avoid serious steps leading towards stability and security in the Middle East.

Sawt Al Shaab daily for its part also dwelt on the same topic describing any act of force by Washington as an act of terrorism that can only draw disgust and anger. The paper described the American downing of two Libyan planes as an act of aggression on Libya that can only lead to an escalation of tension in an area that suffered a great deal from previous conflicts. It said that international opposition against Washington's possible acts of aggression on Libyan territory has now forced the U.S. to retreat from its stand and refrain from committing further aggressions.

Security cooperation with U.S. is opportunity for PLO

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — The PLO has an opportunity to underpin its new relationship with the United States through security cooperation against radical Palestinian groups opposed to the dialogue that opened in Tunis last month.

The first test case is the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland on Dec. 21, attributed by numerous security specialists to any of several fringe groups which reject the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Ibrahim Souss, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Paris, said Tuesday the organisation was ready to give Washington any information it gets on the bombing.

"We are going to cooperate with the United States to try to find clues and provide them with certain information, which the PLO can get hold of," he said in a radio interview.

Arafat, whose organisation has an experienced intelligence network throughout the Middle East, has already asked his offices worldwide to report any information about the disaster, a PLO diplomat told Reuters in Nicosia.

The subject came up at a meeting in Tunis last Saturday between U.S. Ambassador Robert Pellerre and PLO representative Hakam Balawi, both of whom took part in the first round of official PLO-American talks on Dec. 16.

The White House said Pellerre told Balawi that Washington would welcome any information the PLO might uncover. U.S. administration officials said Balawi promised to pass the request

on to Arafat. Diplomats in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters, say the organisation has every incentive to help, as long as neither party makes too much noise about it.

Renunciation of terrorism was one of Washington's preconditions for dialogue with the PLO and the United States has made clear it expects Arafat to live up to this commitment.

By helping track down his hardline opponents, Arafat not only protects his own followers but also protects the dialogue with Washington, which was one of the PLO's longstanding tactical objectives, the diplomats say.

"It's another step to helping combat (terrorism), especially when its interests are the target, and the dialogue adds to that," one diplomat said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Souss made the same point, saying he thought the aim of the Pan Am bombing was to block "all attempts to seek a peaceful political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

Both the PLO and Washington have said extremist groups might carry out attacks in the hope of pinning the blame on the PLO and disrupting the new dialogue. The PLO has said Israel might try the same tactic for the same purpose.

Arafat is likely to expect Washington to return any favour by tipping him off about any Israeli plans to attack members of his own organisation. But this would only come at a later stage, the diplomats said.

The PLO, in the first round of talks last month, asked the United States to define its position

on what it calls acts of Israeli state terrorism. It says the assassination of PLO military chief Abu Jihad in Tunis last April was such an act.

The danger for the PLO of too

close an association with U.S. intelligence is that its opponents would portray it as a traitor to the Arab cause.

It could also complicate relations with Libyan leader Muam-

mar Qadhafi, who continues to treat Arafat courteously despite an official policy of no compromise with Israel.

After Arafat last month re-

nounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist, Li-

byan Foreign Minister Jaddallah

Azzouz Al Talhi said his country

still held that "what has been

taken by force (Palestine) can

only be recovered by force."



A Palestinian state would wipe out Israel? preposterous

By Abba Eban

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The recent definitions of Palestinian attitudes will not "solve" the Middle Eastern crisis or bring a negotiation with Israel into early view. But all attempts in Israel and the United States to portray them as worthless or fraudulent have incurred failure. Moreover, it is absurd to suggest, as many of the American decision makers, that the American decision to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) threatens Israel's very survival.

The evolution in Palestinian thinking toward "realistic and pragmatic positions on the key

issues," as President Ronald Reagan has said, is either real or illusory. If it is real it would be reckless not to probe it in its full scope and depth. If it is all a hoax and a fraud, it is important to expose it. In either case, it was absolutely right for Secretary of State George Shultz to inaugurate an exploratory dialogue.

The reasons for believing that the Palestine leadership is on a new course are too strong for out-of-hand rejection. First, there is the impressive unanimity of belief among all the statesmen who have ever shown respect for Israel's rights. It would be absurd for Israelis to assume that Mr. Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Francois Mitterrand, American Jewish leaders and Israel's other supporters in Europe, Latin America and the rest of the world are glib dupes.

Perhaps more sensational even than this consensus was a recent survey revealing that 55 per cent of Israel's Jewish population now supports negotiations with the PLO if the promises of its chairman, Yasser Arafat, are kept.

Nevertheless, when it was announced that an American ambassador would have a talk with a PLO official in Tunis, friendly American columnists sounded all the alarms. A.M. Rosenthal of the New York

Times reflected on "a risk to Israel's existence." George Will saw the Reagan administration and its officers, together with the "glibble West," as the insidious enemies of Israel's future. Norman Podhoretz, in The New York Post, described a "Palestine ministe on the West Bank and Gaza" as part of a macabre scenario "with battles raging 15 miles from Israel's population centres and with the Palestinians flanking Jerusalem on three sides and Tel Aviv on two." Israeli casualties "could reach as high as 100,000."

The dark vision of another New York Times columnist, William Safire, is not of mere peril but of "extermination." He awards a gold medal for endangering Israel to Shimon Peres, with Mr. Arafat and the United States as candidates for a silver and a bronze. In Mr. Safire's Christmas dream, John Tower, as U.S. secretary of defence, and Moshe Arens, as Israel's defence minister, roam the Middle East bombing Arab weapons systems. This alluring prospect is called "surgical non-proliferation." It must be a long time since a responsible journalist published an incitement to two governments to initiate what would become a nuclear exchange. Common to all these views is

the notion that Israel is a demilitarised land like Iceland or Monaco or Lichtenstein. The PLO forces, by contrast, are depicted as the lineal descendant of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon and the Hitler-Stalin dictatorships, able to exterminate Israel. There is not a single word to indicate either that Israel has any military power or that the PLO has any military limitations.

This is drastically opposed to the reality. The Israeli defence system is one of the wonders of the world. Never in history has so small a community been able — and ready — to wield such vast capacity of defence, deterrence and reprisal.

The "Middle East Military Balance," published by the Israeli Centre of Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, shows Israel with a mobilisable manpower of 540,000, some 3,800 tanks, 682 aircraft with awesome bomb capacity, thousands of artillery pieces and missiles and an imposing electronic capacity. The PLO has, according to the same survey, 8,000 men in scattered places, zero tanks and aircraft, a few guns and no missiles, but a variety of hand grenades, mortars, stones and bottles. It takes a great effort of imagination to envision this array of forces flank-

ing our cities from five sides and the sea, while inflicting 100,000 casualties.

If there were to be an Arab-ruled entity in a large part of the West Bank and Gaza, either as a separate state, or, preferably, as part of a confederation with Jordan, it would be the weakest military entity on earth. If there were a demilitarisation as part of a settlement, it would be possible to enforce it owing to the vigilant proximity of Israel and Jordan. With the exception of a relatively minor rejectionist front (Libya, Syria and South Yemen), the Arab World is pressing the Palestinians for realism, not for adventurism.

There would be security problems in an Arab entity in the West Bank and Gaza, as there are in greater intensity with Israeli occupation of those areas. But to call it a threat to Israel's survival is preposterous. It is the survival of a Palestinian nation that could be threatened by irreversibility.

Finally, it is unlikely that the Arab states would accede to a request from the PLO to make war against Israel on its behalf. The position now is that these states are not even being invited to do so. Israelis and Americans should be celebrating a success, not bemoaning the dangers.

The harm done to Israel by the rhetoric of weakness is far-reaching. The aim of our defence system is deterrence, with victory as the fall-back aim. If friends say that we are virtually impotent, this effect is lost. There is also damage to credibility. Talk of Israel's extermination is nowhere taken seriously by those who know the power balance; it is interpreted as justification for immobility or pre-emptive aggression.

The semantic extermination is also a historic insult to Zionism. If, after a century of Zionist effort and 40 years of statehood, replete with victories in the battlefield and crowned by an alliance with a superpower, Israel's 3.5 million Jews were the only Jewish community anywhere faced with plausible danger of "destruction," the Zionist enterprise, dedicated to Jewish security, would be seen to have failed.

Friendship is to be judged by consequence, not by intention. Israel's friends should avoid creating a false myth of Israeli weakness. Israel's return to Security Council Resolution 242 and the principle of "territory of peace" is now an indispensable condition for any further movement — a step that Israel is strong enough to take — The New York Times.

Soviets seem ready for scaled down Kampuchea role

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Kampuchea — The Soviet Union appears ready to scale down its role in Kampuchea and eager for a political solution to the conflict there, where it has urged ally Vietnam to pull out its troops, Western and Soviet diplomats say.

The apparent retrenchment — after a decade as Phnom Penh's major economic and military backer — fits into the Kremlin policy of shedding or paring costly foreign involvements. Additionally, a Kampuchean solution would unquestionably hasten normal relations with China.

"I think they've both decided to put this one behind them, to sweep this one under the rug," said a Western diplomat in Bangkok, referring to the Sino-Soviet dispute over Kampuchea. Moscow backs Vietnam and the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh, while Peking arms the Khmer Rouge and other resistance groups.

Although Moscow denies pressuring Vietnam to withdraw its forces, Deputy Foreign Minister Igor A. Rogachev has said the partial pull-out from Kampuchea in 1988 was an "avenue toward a speedy solution" that could improve Sino-Soviet relations. The two powers are expected to hold a summit this year, with Kampuchea perhaps the highest prior-

ity item on the agenda.

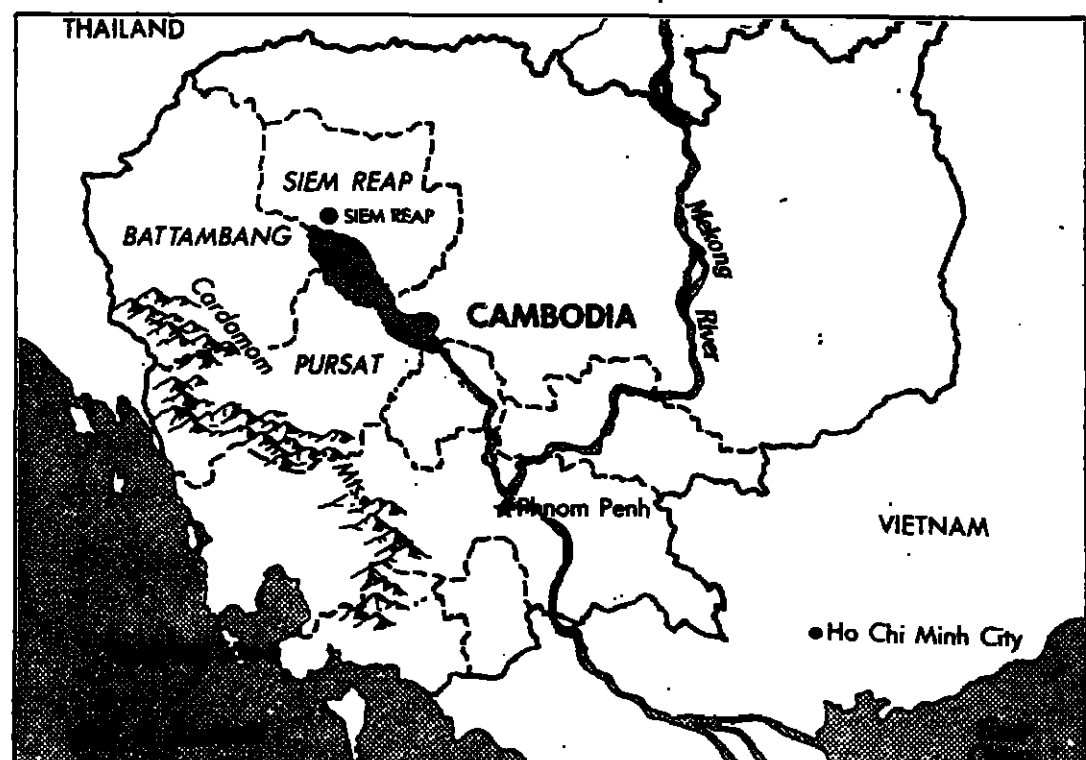
Moscow also doesn't appear to relish the burden of being the major foreign aid donor to Kampuchea.

"This kind of monopoly we certainly do not like. Alone, we can't do too much," said a Soviet diplomat in the Kampuchean capital, adding that his country was especially unhappy about having to meet Kampuchea's total petroleum needs — on credit.

The Soviet Union has sunk substantial resources into Kampuchea but nothing of the magnitude of its investments in Afghanistan or neighbouring Vietnam, where annual military and economic aid is estimated by Washington to exceed \$3 billion. Neither has Moscow carried out pledges for wholesale reconstruction of Kampuchea, made following the Vietnamese invasion there 10 years ago.

Phnom Penh's official media said recently that in 1979-80, the Soviet Union extended aid worth 200 million rubles (\$133.3 million at current exchange rates) to help overcome famine and devastation caused by the previous Khmer Rouge government. Aid levels are believed to have been substantially lower since then, although reliable estimates are not available.

Several hundred Soviet advisers are stationed in the country, involved in projects ranging from a ground satellite station to a



vetinary centre. Soviets pilot planes of the Kampuchean airline and are renovating the electric power supply system. By 1990, more than 3,500 scholarships reportedly will have been awarded to Kampuchean students for study in the Soviet Union.

Moscow also fouts most of the bill for keeping not only the Phnom Penh army but Vietnam's force in Kampuchea in the field. This cost, Western analysts say, is another reason why Moscow would like Hanoi to withdraw its forces and the warring parties in Kampuchea to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Little Soviet blood has been shed in Kampuchea, and Moscow

has not established a naval base at the Kampuchean deep-water port of Kompong Som as some had feared.

In recent years Moscow has not shown any intention of undertaking the massive infrastructure development needed in a country plagued since 1970 by war, the Khmer Rouge revolution and the current insurgency.

Soviet diplomats say they would like to skim fat from the current aid programme and scoff at some of the schemes of their aid bureaucracy such as setting up a circus or getting involved in tourism.

One diplomat, noting the Soviet Union's own deficiencies

in tourism development, said the Kampuchean "saw the light" and decided to invite Hong Kong businessmen rather than Soviet aid personnel to restore a first-class hotel in Phnom Penh.

"I think basically Kampuchea is not terribly important to them," said the Bangkok-based diplomat.

However, most Western analysts believe the Soviet Union ideally would want to retain its influence in Kampuchea along with Vietnam and Laos but at a level that would not antagonise the Chinese or non-Communist South East Asia, with which Moscow has attempted with only minimal success to forge stronger economic and political ties.

Of muscles and brains

In the first part of this two-part article Mariam Shahin presented the views of four Jordanian women on "women's liberation" and how they are dealing with their career and families. In the second part they discuss in further detail what they view as the future of Jordanian women in the professional sector, and where and how they believe Jordanian women are most likely to attain recognition and "sacrifices" they may have to make.

ACCORDING to Leila Sharaf, a former information minister, "one of the major obstacles that women in Jordan have to face is their own attitudes. There is a frivolous attitude on the part of most women in the workforce."

Asma Khadre, a lawyer, who has been specialising in civil rights cases sees the situation as two fold. In any case in the professional sector it's not a matter of asking for women's rights. It's a matter of securing the rights of the person. All people's works must be weighed by their worth not whether they were done by a man or a woman. It is the most basic of concepts and apparently has evaded a few people."

Muawia Bakri, the president of the Arab Women's Graduate Club, remembers that when she wanted to work as a physician in a government hospital, her application was denied on the basis that she was a married woman. "This has changed now, of course, but I believe the institutionalised discrimination must be the first on our list of changes. Yes, there is a question of mentality that discriminates against women in the workforce, but the actual mentality of people is much more tedious and extensive work that any law will ever be. We must take one step at a time."

Buthaina Jardaneh, the director of the Amman Business and Professional Women's Club, says that "education is the key to change, the key to change the mentality of people. When self-sufficiency becomes an economic necessity for all, then people might begin to accept women working in different fields less hesitantly."

"It's high time that those women who are capable and willing to sacrifice their time and energy to serving the society by being doctors, lawyers, engineers, electricians, plumbers or whatever they wish to be, are given the chance to do what they want to do," says Sharaf. "From what I see, successful professionals, who really excel in their field, are limited and thus there is a need to allow people, regardless of sex, religion or colour to do what they can do best."

To be or not to be

Lawyer Khadre says: "Not all women have to become mothers. The assigned roles that all of us are acting out don't necessarily suit all of us. With the population explosion that the world is facing, I don't think that a woman who chooses not to have children should be castigated by society, be the reasons behind her decision professional or otherwise."

The question of motherhood that Khadre touches on is only the tip of an iceberg. There is indeed a worldwide controversy over the woman's role as a mother and the special responsibilities attached to motherhood vis-a-vis her dedication to a profession she has chosen to pursue. Basically, three schools of thought have emerged; the first believes that any individual can only pursue and be successful in one line of action. The second bases itself on the argument that a woman can bear children at a

relatively early age and subsequently attempt to pursue a career or vice versa.

The third argument is that a woman could be a highly successful mother as well as pursuing a profession at the same.

The justifications for the three different lines of thinking are convincing in their own way, and somehow it all appears to depend on an individual's personality and capabilities.

The role of the society

Sharaf points out that the society has to come to terms with the new way of life and make amends for it. "More daycare centres, babysitters, gardens, parks and other recreational activities will have to be made available to cater to the needs of children of professional women," she says.

"Equally important, if not more, will be flexible office hours for working mothers. These changes are essential and are not as impractical as many employers believe them to be."

Attitudes of men

According to Khadre, "women often don't take themselves seriously enough; that's part of the reason that men's attitudes are so often condescending."

Drawing from her experience working as a lawyer in Jordan, Khadre says the attitudes of many men in the legal profession in the country are "double faced."

"On the one hand, they are very polite and complimentary when speaking with their female colleagues," she says. "On the other, when the proverbial push comes to shove, they are right down aggressive and demean us just because we belong to the opposite sex."

Khadre recounts her experience to prove the point. "When I began practising law ten years ago, there were only around ten registered female lawyers practising. Today, there are between 100 and 120. On several occasions I have listened to some of my male colleagues criticising 'women' lawyers for being 'ineffective' or 'lazy' or just simply bad lawyers. These accusations were made with the conclusion that women lawyers are bad at what they do. Never did the question of 'bad' male lawyers come up. Don't they realise that there are just as many 'bad' men in the legal profession as there are women? Or does the fact that they are men protect them from being criticised on a professional level?"

But, Jardaneh differs with Khadre on this point. She believes it is more a matter of handling situations and approach than anything else. "It all depends on how one deals with a male colleague. You have to be diplomatic at all times. I have been working in the professional sector for over twenty years and have never felt discrimination or felt that my professional qualifications were not honoured."

In the same context Khadre makes another point. "Women face tremendous difficulties while attempting to attain a professional status. Once they reach a cer-

tain level they spend even more time trying to stay where they are. It's an uphill battle all the way."

Sharaf points out that many employers prefer to hire single women because they feel that the output would be greater than with women who have the responsibility of being a wife and mother. "The detachment that Arab men have traditionally displayed as far as their domestic life and responsibilities are concerned have also played an important part in the hesitant attitude on the part of women to go into the professional arena," she says.

Self-confidence

Sharaf believes that there should also be a change in working women's orientations. "I tend to see the women's weakness (in Jordan) in the professional sector as a reflection of the lack of self-confidence," she says. "You can do anything successfully; it just depends on how well you present your position."

Sharaf compares the attitudes of women from the Arab World and Asia. "In general, Arab women have not been taught to compete and survive as intellectual equals with men as the case with Asian women. The Arab society and family structure have ingrained in their minds an unconscious feeling that men are always more capable than women. Besides, many Arab women will tell you, 'it's more comfortable to let someone else make the decisions; it's less of a headache'."

Sharaf believes that "once industrialisation spreads, the role of women in the workforce is bound to change tremendously. It cannot be but enhanced. The competition will then be between the brain and the muscle."

Khadre also foresees an increased role of women in the professional sector with the growth of industrialisation. "National planning will largely influence the professional sectors that women may enter in the next two decades," she notes. "If the concentration will be on agricultural and industrial expansion, the situation will differ greatly from a policy which encourages a mercantile, academic or a service economy."

Bakri points out that "there is currently a great need for technically trained 'handi-person' — the electrician, the plumber and the carpenter. These professions, for whatever reasons, have been belittled and thus very few people want to learn how to use their hands. 'It may surprise people that there are women who are naturally talented in fields such as electronics and woodworking and finishing. Why should these people not be given a chance?'"

Education and marriage

Many Jordanian girls obtain university education, according to Khadre, because "it has become a common conception that a girl becomes more 'marriageable' once she has a university certificate."

Sharaf says that many girls show a very frivolous attitude to work apparently believing that "it is an intermediary stage between student life and marriage. Unfortunately, many families still have a 'dowry' mentality, when it comes to their daughters. Thus the general atmosphere does not en-



The Statue of Liberty, a free woman represents liberty for all!

courage girls to take work seriously.

Bakri feels that progress in the professional sector amongst young women and men has been impeded by what she describes as "a self image quite different from their parents' generation. They seem a bit selfish and lack dedication to any concept in particular. Their is a superficiality in the priorities and morals that young people have today. The family unit is very decisive in this situation, because it is usually from the home that young people get their sense of dedication towards the family and of course their greater family, their society."

Taxpayers' money, wasted education

Khadre says: "It's every student's responsibility to himself, to their families and to the taxpayers — who are after all paying for their education — to make something of education. If they don't want to work, leave the precious seats our education system provides for those who are willing and wanting to work."

Many women activists believe that the system encourages the frivolous attitude many women have by the widely followed practice of dispensing with women workers whenever a recession sets in. "Women are always the first target for dismissals," says Jardaneh. "So, if the society does not realise that once you put a qualified and diligent woman

worker out of a job, you lose. Then you have a society that simply has not kept up with the natural pace that progress brings with it. It loses the capital invested in educating and training women and inherits the financial burden of attempting to provide for her family."

According to Jardaneh, "there are many people who believe that Islam as a religion has contributed to the general lack of mobility by women in the professional sector. As Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan recently proved by becoming the first woman prime minister of an Islamic country, it all depends on how the Quran is interpreted. Basically I don't see that Islam per se hinders women from being professionally inclined and active."

Sharaf feels that there are two monumental examples of how women have created an indispensable position for themselves in their respective societies in the Arab World. "Albeit with great sacrifices and through circumstances beyond their control, the women in Iraq and the Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories have paved the way for their daughters and the rest of the Arab World. Without the participation of women in the Iraqi war economy the country would not have come through as it did. The fact that Iraq kept up in the factories, the shops and all the necessary daily functions was as much a success as what was going on in the trenches and it was all run by women."

Cures for the body and soul

This is the second of a three part article on Arab Islamic Medicine and Public Health written by Dr. Sami H. Hamarneh who is a professor in the School of Public Health at Yarmouk University in Jordan.

Another matter of historical importance relates to the regulating and issuing of licenses for legal medical practice. Qualified physicians could thus be recognised and engaged in their profession freely. A bureau for issuing licenses to practitioners was established, as was a board of examiners that licensed medical candidates. This tradition continued intermittently into the late Middle Ages.

There was a close and cordial relation, in Islamic medicine, between the healer on the one hand and the patient and his family on the other. Physical treatment and psychotherapy were complementary. At bedside visits, the physician thoroughly acquainted himself with the patient's condition and case history before arriving at his diagnosis and prognosis. In caring for this patients, as a socially concerned citizen, he played an important role in the affairs of his community as well.

Ethics and medical deontology to the Muslim physician were part of his religious commitment. One of the earliest books in Arabic to treat the subject was al-Ruhawi's *Adab Al-Tabib*, during the ninth century. Many later treatises gave directives and doctrinal statements on the codes that govern the healer's professional and moral standards and behaviour. They instruct the physician to be modest, virtuous, kind and merciful. He should not be avaricious, slanderous, or addicted to drugs or wines. He must behave properly towards women. At no time should he divulge the secrets of his clients and colleagues, or conduct himself improperly in any way that would injure the feelings of others. And he should avoid predicting whether a patient will live or die — a type of prognosis contrary to present-day practice.

A physician, furthermore, should dress in clean raiments and groom his hair neatly. When asked too many questions by the patient or his family, he should not lose his temper easily, but rather answer patiently, rendering the best professional services to poor and rich, learned and illiterate, alike.

If a patient requests consultation with another physician, the family doctor must consent courteously, even if the second diagnosis disagrees with his recommendations. He should explain the two points of view and the consequences, and consider the best course to be taken. He should warn against too many or incompatible medications that may injure the health. The family doctor must also be cautious in prescribing potent remedial agents to pregnant women.

Psychotherapy

With regard to psychotherapy

in Islam, many leading physicians devoted chapters on the subject. The great philosopher-physician al-Razi (d. 925) distinguished between physical disability and psychotherapy. Seeking the healing of body and mind, he recommended healthy environment, amid wholesome natural scenery, to speed recovery. Another physician-philosopher, Ibn Butlan (d. 1068), in his *Taqwim al-Sihah* (*On The Preservation of Health*), explained the enjoyment and benefit derived from sweet, musical melody: "It is a cure to the soul, as drugs heal the sick body."

By the ninth century, the health profession as a whole had reached a high degree of progress that subsequently extended into the European Renaissance. As the competition and challenge increased, many practitioners in Islam turned to specialisation in a specific field. Among the major branches of the healing arts were anatomy and surgery.

Evidence revealed

Archaeological research has revealed evidence of organised instrumentation and surgery as early as the eighth century. Then came the translation period from Greek, Syriac, Indian and other languages into Arabic, which ushered in a revival of knowledge fed by a number of great minds, among them Hippocrates, Dioscorides, Galen and Paulus Aegineta.

Despite its hazards, surgery and its technical applications advanced. It received profound expression in the excellent work of Abdul-Qasim al-Zahrawi (about 1000), who is considered the greatest surgeon of his time. In his *al-Tasrif* (translated into Latin, French and English), he described salient points and observations on surgery, obstetrics and instrumentation. He used various types of sutures to bind wounds; cautioned against amputations above the knee and elbow; identified paralysis caused

by injury to the spinal cord; described instruments used in various operations; and stressed that no operation be performed without a thorough knowledge of anatomy and the exact location of major arteries, veins, nerves and tendons.

The treatise includes details of more than 200 surgical instruments designed by al-Zahrawi, many of which became the prototypes of instruments later used worldwide.

One of the most influential figures in Islamic medicine was Ibn Sina (Avicenna), whose 11th-century *Canon of Medicine* later became a basic text in the medical schools of Europe.

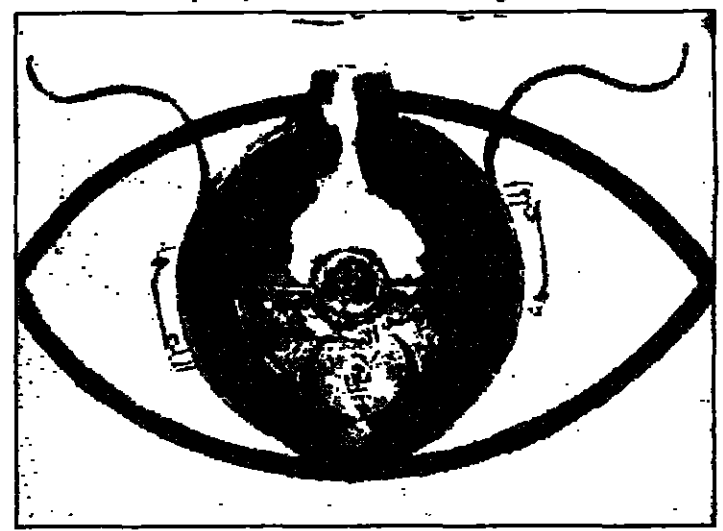
In the 13th century, two important medical figures appeared. The first, Ibn al-Nafis of Syria who lived and died in Cairo, discovered the pulmonary circulation of the blood, in a clear and objective declaration almost 350 years before William Harvey proclaimed his epochal essay on the motion of the heart and blood.

Ibn al-Quff, his contemporary, authored the most comprehensive Arabic text on surgery, *Al-Umdah*. He explained embryological procedures, predicted child sex through experimental observations, and expressed interest in pediatrics. He also appealed for a unified Arab meteorological system in pharmacy and medicine.

Besides the surgeon, there also was in Islam the naturalist and internal medical specialist, who sought in his surroundings the natural remedial agents for healing the body and the soul. It was widely believed that "Whenever God allows sickness in any place or time, He has created in the same manner the remedies that provide the cure."

Viewing the function of the human internal system as a whole, this practitioner dealt with the diagnoses, pathology and non-surgical treatment of diseases. He observed and traced symptoms, connected diagnoses with the causes of diseases, and gave rational consideration in dispensing medical care.

Jordan Magazine



Feeding a Hi-tech society

By Sybil Bernier-Hart

LONDON — The storm in the British egg cup is over, at least momentarily, but it raised hard questions about providing safe food in a technologically advanced society, questions that contain lessons for the developing world.

How can the consumer, increasingly dependent on high-pressure express shopping and favourite brand names, feel certain that his or her shopping bag is really the nutrition he or she needs and not poison in attractive packaging?

How can hi-tech society avoid mass food poisoning, comparable to the frequent traffic pile-ups on its highways, in which one human error or system failure may cost the lives of many?

The short answer is that it cannot. The more society becomes dependent on centralised sources of supply, whether of food or of amenities, the more it becomes vulnerable to the results of failures in the systems or external influences, such as the radiation fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986.

Few experts are ready to accept that food contamination can be eliminated altogether with development. But most of them acknowledge that the common problems with food distribution — such as salmonellosis — are magnified manifold when large quantities are involved.

The salmonella outbreak in

Britain was variously described by experts as an endemic or frequent occurrence which some how did not get enough attention until a junior minister, Edwina Currie, embraced the controversial subject, only to be shot down by strong lobbies within the farming industry. It was in any case the most serious recent example in Britain of unfit food being served up to unsuspecting consumers.

The World Health Organisation has been campaigning worldwide for irradiation of food as the answer to the problems of contamination or poor storage. But it has met with opposition from different quarters, including the anti-nuclear lobby. In a recent study it responded to common fears and misapprehensions about irradiation.

Irradiation so far has been touted as the cheap way out for the poor countries, where the resources needed for large-scale processing and storage of food are limited. But it has met with fierce opposition from the consumer in the developed countries. The experience of Britain, however, may hasten the process towards greater acceptance of irradiation.

"There is not yet a big commercial market for irradiated food," says a WHO report, but that is because of "the lack of consumer understanding and acceptance of food irradiation."

In the irradiation process, food is exposed to ionising radiation,

which is already used in X-ray pictures, cancer treatment and sterilisation of medical products. Because of the other uses of radiation, consumers have been loath to accept irradiated food, but WHO scientists stress, there is little risk of food thus treated becoming radioactive. Neither does the food lose its flavour or taste, the experts insist.

Irradiation has been found to kill insects, fungi and bacteria in food in the same way that heat-processing, refrigeration or freezing do. But irradiated food has longer shelf life than food stored by other processes.

Irradiation does not, however, provide total protection from dangerous micro-organisms in food, nor does it sterilise the food.

— Academic File.

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Despite highly uneven prosperity

'88 world economy confounded pessimists'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The world economy during 1988 confounded pessimistic forecasts of a year ago and grew at a faster rate than any time since 1984, according to a U.N. report published Thursday.

Growth was expected to continue, at a lower rate, in the short term, it said. But the report, "The World Economy at the End of 1988," said last year's prosperity was

highly uneven. In many developing countries growth of income fell behind, or barely kept pace with, the growth of population. "The performance of the world economy in 1988, except for the continued sluggishness in some developing regions, stands in sharp contrast to the atmosphere of pessimism that prevailed a year ago," it said.

"Instead of slowing down, as predicted in most forecasts, including that of the U.N., the world economy grew faster than at any time since 1984. There was also a significant upturn in international trade, which far surpassed expectations and grew at twice the average rate of the

1980s," it added.

The report, produced by the U.N. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, said world output grew by around four per cent in 1988, compared with 3.4 per cent growth the previous year.

The growth of world trade accelerated more sharply, from five per cent in 1987 to about seven per cent in 1988.

"Three-quarters of the population of the world live in countries whose per capita real income rose in 1988, but one quarter live in countries where it declined," the report said.

It also warned that "large fiscal deficit in the United States and

imbalances in trade relationships among the major developed market economies continue to threaten the stability of the international economy."

Exchange rates of major currencies remained highly volatile and a solution to the problem of external debt of the developing countries was not yet in sight. "Indeed, in 1988 the debt crisis became more acute in Latin America, and most countries of Africa," the report emphasised.

In its forecast for 1989, the report said world growth was expected to increase by about 3.5 per cent. Output from the developed market economies would

slow to three per cent but the danger of a sharper deceleration persisted.

"The large imbalances in trade between the major developed market economies remain by far the most important potential threat to the growth and stability of the world economy," it stated.

The report said it was unlikely that the U.S. external deficit would be financed at its present level for any extended period. The reduction of the U.S. fiscal deficit remained critical to the correction of these imbalances and the avoidance of major upheavals in financial markets, it added.

Iranian company to start producing Peugeot cars

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's biggest auto company Iran Khodro has signed a contract with the French firm Peugeot to produce 500,000 cars over 10 years, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Thursday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a statement by the state-owned company saying it would start producing Peugeot 405 saloons and station wagons next spring.

Peugeot said in Paris the deal was worth eight to 10 billion francs (\$1.3 to \$1.7 billion).

The contract also includes the purchase of 60,000 engines over the next six years to improve Peugeot's production from the 1980s Hillman Hunter model Iran Khodro has been producing for over 20 years. The deal is a major boost to trade with France after Tehran and Paris restored diplomatic relations last June following an 11-month break.

Iranian officials have been speaking for several years of the need for Iran Khodro to switch from the outdated Paykan to a more efficient model. They had considered at least one Japanese car.

IRNA said managing director Davoud Mirkhani Rashti told a news conference in Tehran that the deal was a way out for Iran Khodro — weighed down by high taxes and worn out machinery and coming out of temporary closure in 1986 caused by the slump in world oil prices.

He said the contract would enable the company to increase foreign exchange earnings through exports and become profitable again.

"If particular attention is not paid to the company... it will have to close down. This will be an economic disaster for the government and the nation," IRNA quoted Mirkhani Rashti as saying. He also criticised the com-

pany's management for lacking authority and versatility and said Iran Khodro had been paying taxes of up to 60 per cent on sales in recent years, IRNA added.

The Peugeot cars will be equipped with 1.3, 1.6 and 1.9 litre engines and their production would rise from 6,000 in the first year to 100,000 per year in line with domestic demand.

Only 11 per cent of the car parts would be made in Iran at the beginning, but the proportion would reach 85 per cent with investment in machinery over six years.

According to the contract, Peugeot would buy back the equivalent of 15 per cent of Iran Khodro's purchases from the French firm each year in the form of spare parts or assembled cars, the statement said.

Peugeot would also provide training and technical services.

Iran strictly limited import of foreign passenger cars after the Islamic revolution 10 years ago. Production of Paykans — as well as Renault 4 and Citroen 2CV which are also assembled in Iran — was disrupted by foreign exchange shortages during the Iran-Iraq war.

More than a million Paykans are on the roads in Iran. To supply spare parts, Iran last year bought second-hand machinery producing Hillman Hunter parts from Peugeot's subsidiary Talbot.

Heavy Industry Minister Behzad Nabavi said last May Iran had paid Talbot \$13 million for about 1,000 machines with an average age of six years.

He said 35 per cent of Paykan was manufactured domestically.

Iran Khodro, the country's second biggest industrial enterprise after the Isfahan Steel Mill, was set up as a private firm in 1960s and nationalised in 1979. It laid off some 6,500 workers, nearly half its total, during the 1986 crunch. It now employs 9,000 workers, according to IRNA.

After adopting austerity measures

Israeli government seeks wage cuts

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres, struggling to revive the Israeli economy, said Friday he would seek union agreement for wage cuts.

In a marathon 13-hour cabinet session, Peres persuaded ministers to trim 1.1 billion shekels (\$610 million) from the 1988-89 state budget and introduce fees for secondary education and doctors' visits.

"There will be many difficulties in the next phase... getting the agreement of the Histadrut (labour federation) on wages," he told Israel Radio.

Peres is demanding workers forego compensation through automatic cost-of-living increases that would cover a 12 per cent devaluation of the shekel against the dollar and cuts in subsidies.

Economists said the minister was making a bold effort to transform export-reliant Israel into a

more open, capitalist economy capable of meeting the challenge of the European Economic Community's abolition of internal trade barriers in 1992.

They said that only Peres as leader of the Labour Party, which built the Israeli economy with strong elements of East European-style state socialism and bureaucracy, could force through such changes at such a pace.

Peres took over the finance ministry two weeks ago in a "national unity" government formed by right-wing Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

His toughest measures — drastic cuts in subsidies on basic foods and public transport — will hit the poorest Israelis, while increases in public utility prices will affect many wage-earners.

Yisrael Kessar, secretary general of the trade union federation, complained that the programme burdened the weak and

sick and did not address the problem of unemployment.

He threatened industrial action in protest.

In a bid to persuade the Histadrut to cooperate, Peres added a tax on luxury cars and higher national insurance contributions for the rich to create an impression of social balance.

Labour Party officials said the Histadrut had little option but to accept wage cuts since it needed government support to bale out its debt-burdened industrial empire, including the giant Koor concern, facing a severe cash crisis.

Other key elements of Peres' plan are the privatisation of state enterprises, a two-year reduction in the bloated public sector workforce, liberalisation of capital markets and a gradual opening of Israel to foreign capital.

Right-wing industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, one of two

ministers who voted against the programme, said Friday it did nothing to lower high interest rates which were crippling the economy.

"We face ruinous interest rates. This was not solved and there were no drastic moves to solve it. It is something that will bring exceptional hardship to industry and will totally destroy agriculture," he said.

The programme closely follows a four-year plan for the economy submitted to the cabinet this week by the central bank seeking to reduce the role of government, phase out protectionism and allow free play to market forces.

Jerusalem Post economic analyst Avi Temkin wrote that the Bank of Israel "wants to reshape the Israeli economy and society to be something closer to Mrs. Thatcher's Britain or President Reagan's United States."

Lebanon's central bank intervenes to rescue troubled Al Mashreq Bank

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank began funding a troubled commercial bank Friday to prevent a possible collapse which could have threatened to destroy the war-torn country's banking system.

Central bank governor Edmond Naim said he agreed to finance Al Mashreq Bank after its president, Roger Tamraz, put up as collateral his personal assets and those of Michare Company, operator of four smaller banks that he owns.

Judicial authorities, at Naim's request, issued an arrest warrant for Tamraz Tuesday after Al Mashreq, one of Lebanon's major banks, failed to meet depositors' demands late last month.

Official sources said the central bank had told several banks abroad to stop their dealings with Tamraz and judicial authorities

had confiscated his passport.

They estimated Al Mashreq's deficit in Lebanon at \$100 million, but had no figures for its branches abroad.

The crisis caused panic among depositors who rushed to Al Mashreq and its affiliated banks to withdraw their money.

But Naim urged people not to withdraw funds from Al Mashreq and Tamraz's other banks and

said the central bank would provide liquidity to all banks in financial trouble.

The central bank had assigned permanent controllers to Al Mashreq to supervise its transactions.

The official sources said the central bank intervened to help Al Mashreq to prevent a crisis of confidence in other banks. The central bank is one of the

few unified institutions in a country teetering on the verge of partition with no president, two rival governments and a toothless parliament.

Officials said the bank, which holds more than 60 per cent of Lebanon's 9.2 million ounces of gold reserves and \$991 million in foreign cash reserves, had the capacity to bail out any bank in difficulty.

Kremlin defends curbing coops

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet officials, displaying highly priced products of dubious quality, Thursday defended curbs on the activities of cooperatives, saying the action was necessary to protect consumers.

"Look at this," said Ivan Korovkin, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Publishing, Printing and the Book Trade, holding up a glossy calendar showing a picture of a naked woman and a black cat at a news conference.

"An Estonian cooperative wanted 15 roubles (\$25) for this. It costs just 90 kopecks (\$1.5) to produce. And look at these pictures of rock groups," he added.

"They sell for 30 kopecks (50 cents) each. The state price would be a tenth of that. We must protect consumers against products of low quality and doubtful aesthetic taste."

Less than two years after the Kremlin launched a bold experiment in limited private enter-

prise, it has announced cooperatives will be barred from carrying out a long list of activities.

The ban, which covers business such as selling jewellery, alcohol and religious artifacts and the renting, copying and selling of video films, has been attacked by critics as unnecessarily restrictive.

Other activities, such as publishing and providing certain medical services, will in future only be possible in conjunction with state enterprises.

Korovkin and other officials expressed support for the measures, saying they would affect only a minority of cooperatives.

"We only wanted to remove negative phenomenon," Georgy Golubov, head of the Economic Legislation Department, said.

"They cover less than one per cent of cooperatives."

"We very much hope that we will not have to introduce more

legislation in the near future," he added. "But unexpected circumstances may evolve that have to be taken into account at a future stage."

The cooperatives have been one of the most controversial parts of perestroika (restructuring) since they were legalised in an apparent attempt to plug holes in the Soviet economy, particularly in its tiny service sector.

There are now tens of thousands of them with sales totalling one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion) in the first half of last year.

While Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev strongly defended the principle in his new year speech, the press has complained about high prices and low quality and accusations that cooperatives merely divert goods from the state sector.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Dubai tests U.S. meat

DUBAI (R) — Health authorities in the Gulf emirate of Dubai are testing meat from the United States after the European Community said it was banning hormone-treated American meat, a Dubai municipality official said. The official told Reuters that Dubai, one of seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE), would ban American meat if tests showed hormone treatment threatened public health. Dubai imports frozen meat from the United States but most of its supplies come from Denmark and Australia.

N. Korea, Iran sign economic accords

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and North Korea have signed agreements covering cooperation in fisheries, ship-building and port construction, Tehran Radio reported Thursday. The accords were signed before North Korea's Minister of External Economic Relations Chong Song-Nam left Tehran Thursday after an 11-day visit. The radio said, Iran agreed last week to export two million tonnes of crude oil to North Korea. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Minister of Construction Jihad (holy war) Gholamreza Forouzesh, as saying Iran would import steel and primary materials in return. Forouzesh said Iran would send oil experts to North Korea and train North Korean oil industry staff. The two countries also agreed to explore cooperation in rural industries, he added.

Braniff orders 100 Airbuses at \$3.5b

NEW YORK (R) — Braniff Inc., in a swap with Pan American World Airways, has said that it has agreed to buy up to 100 medium-haul, 150-seat A320 planes from Europe's Airbus Industrie in a deal valued at \$3.5 billion. The order calls for firm delivery of 50 Airbus A320s and for options on an additional 50, Braniff said. Of the 50 firm orders, 16 were previously booked as firm orders by Pan American World Airways, a unit of financially hard-pressed Pan Am Corp., and the other 34 were options held by that airline. The jetliner will seat 148 passengers in first class and coach with a range of about 5,000 kilometres fully loaded, the Dallas-based airline said. Two of the planes will be delivered in July and another eight by year-end, with the rest set for delivery in 1995, Braniff said. Braniff currently operates a fleet of 63 jet aircraft but has embarked on a plan to expand and modernise its fleet with more long-range, fuel-efficient planes.

Yugoslavia cancels some price rises

BELGRADE (AP) — Yugoslavia's outgoing government, apparently fearing serious social unrest, has cancelled sharp price hikes for electricity and rail transport, newspapers reported Thursday. However, a wave of steep price hikes on other essential services and foodstuffs hit Yugoslavs when shops opened after New Year holidays. Yugoslavia's entire government resigned last Friday following its failure to curb a 250 per cent annual inflation rate and solve the country's other economic and social problems. It is the first federal cabinet to step down since the communists took power after World War II.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday Jan. 5, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	78.3	78.7
U.S. dollar			Japanese yen (for 100)	381.3	383.2
Pound Sterling	478.0	480.0	Dutch guilder	236.8	238.0
Deutschemark	862.5	866.5	Swedish crown	77.7	78.1
Swiss franc	314.9	316.5	Italian lira (for 100)	36.4	36.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	127.5	128.1

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Jan. 1-4	Dec. 24-28
Daily average	JD 653,271	JD 1,014,726
Total volume	JD 2,613,084	JD 5,073,631
Total shares	1,951,200	2,755,826
No. of contracts	2,316	3,210
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,853,356 (70.9%)	JD 2,238,845 (44.1%)
Financial	JD 706,993 (27.0%)	JD 2,661,826 (52.5%)
Service	(2.0%)	(2.9%)
Insurance	(0.1%)	(0.5%)
Share price index	124.4	124.6
No. of companies	49	76
Price movement (rise)	22	10
(decline)	19	53
(stable)	8	11

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Industrial stocks led a strengthening of the share market as trading picked up on local investor interest. The All Ordinaries index closed up 6.1 at 1,479.7.

TOKYO — Prices retreated from an initial rally to close mixed on investor concern over the health of ailing Emperor Hirohito. The Nikkei index rose 25.75 to 30,209.54.

HONG KONG — Prices closed firmer after profit-taking, widely expected after this week's sharp rise. The Hang Seng index rose 8.11 to 2,766.65.

SINGAPORE — Buying interest continued unabated pushing share prices higher over a broad front for the second straight day in active trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 9.21 points to 1,043.34.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered to close mixed on widespread institutional buying after the market fell mid-session. In textiles, Century recovered 35 rupees to 1,295.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mostly lower in active trading as the market consolidated this week's sharp gains to highest levels since the 1987 stock market collapse. The 30-share DAX index closed at 1,359.98, 11.12 points below Thursday's close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares prices closed little changed in moderate trading on worries about the trend toward higher interest rates. The Swiss All Share index closed at 962.6 points, a gain of 0.4.

PARIS — Share prices extended gains in buoyant trade as hectic buying of LVMH pushed the luxury goods group nine per cent up to a new high. The 50-share bourse indicator was up 1.08 per cent at 1200 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were steady but just short of the day's highs in late afternoon business. By 1547 GMT, the FTSE index was up 10.5 to 1,810.0.

NEW YORK — Stocks rebounded from a round of mild profit-taking in morning trading and were close to their early highs. The Dow was up 10 at 2200 and gainers led declining issues by two-to-one.

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FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following courses:

- French language courses for adults (all levels)
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
- Arabic language courses for foreigners
- Music courses (piano - flute - guitar - saxophone)
- Arts courses for women (art of flower making, silk painting, ceramics, painting on glass).

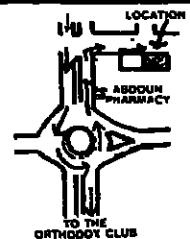
The registration will last on Sunday 8 January 1989 and the courses will start on Monday 9 January till 26 March 1989.

For more information, please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445, Amman.

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For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman - First Circle, Tel: 624049

Embroglio threatens to down Italian sports giant

MILAN (AP) — The 20-year reign of Primo Nebiolo as the head of Italian track and field may be near an end.

There has been much speculation that the powerful international leader will resign or be swept aside by rising criticism. The ruling council of FIDAL, the national track federation, postponed its annual meeting from Thursday to Saturday in what is being reported as a time-buying move for Nebiolo, its chairman.

Some observers interpreted it as an effort by the 64-year-old Turin industrialist to test his strength in the council to withstand mounting criticism and controversy. Other sources speculated that the postponement was a move to gain time for negotiating a graceful resignation, to be announced at Saturday's meeting in Rome.

The council said the meeting was postponed for "technical reasons." Published reports said the council, which re-elected Nebiolo three weeks ago, now is split on his remaining in office. Nebiolo, who also is president of the international amateur athletic federation, track and field's world governing body, has stayed out of the public eye recently.

His office said he was away for the Christmas and new year's holidays and unavailable for interviews.

Calls for Nebiolo's resignation, which began after a fixed long jump at the 1987 world track and field championships in Rome and grew during a series of scandals involving the Italian federation, have become louder.

Thursday, Gazzetta dello Sport, Italy's largest daily sports newspaper, headlined its story, "Nebiolo is besieged," and said resignation was being considered.

If he is forced to resign, it would be a rapid fall for a man who only 1½ years ago was being hailed as the savior of track and field, and who won a four-year extension of his FIDAL chairmanship Dec. 11.

Much depends on a report by magistrates investigating alleged wrongdoing of FIDAL officials and on the attitude of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), which threatened to appoint a commissioner to head FIDAL. The commissioner, who would effectively oust Nebiolo from his post, could trigger a serious break in relations between Coni and one of its most powerful branch federations.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Overweight fighter gives up title

NEW YORK (R) — American Mark Breland will fight Seung Soon Lee of South Korea for the suddenly-vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) title on Feb. 4 in Las Vegas, promoters announced Thursday. Breland, the number one contender, had been slated to fight champion Tomas Molinares but the Colombian relinquished his crown Thursday and the WBA has ruled that Lee, ranked number two, battle the American for the title. In a letter to the WBA, the fighter's manager, Billy Chams, said Molinares was being treated in hospital for mental depression following his inability to make the 66.67-kg limit.

Mansell spins off in trial run

MARANDELLO (AP) — British formula-one driver Nigel Mansell spun off the Fiorano track Thursday during his first test at the wheel of a Ferrari racer near the company headquarters. Mansell, who joined the Italian team for the 1989 world F-1 championship, later explained he lost control of the car following problems with a brand-new automatic gear. The British driver tested the new model, powered by an aspirated engine, which was designed by British engineer John Barnard. "I immediately understood the impressive potential of this car. We will be very competitive in the forthcoming season," he said.

Piggott unable to collect Irish award

DUBLIN (R) — British jockey Lester Piggott, imprisoned for a year for income tax evasion, has been given a top Irish racing industry award but can not collect it personally because of British parole regulations. Piggott, released from prison last year after serving one year of a three-year sentence, was nominated by the Irish Bloodstock Breeders Association for their first "hall of fame" award. But British parole regulations prevent his travelling over to accept the award and his daughter Tracy, working at the stable of Irish trainer Tommy Stack, will receive it on his behalf next Tuesday.

Paris-Dakar emerges from Sahara

PARIS (R) — Peugeot underlined their dominance of the Paris-Dakar rally Thursday by taking the first four places in the seventh timed stage between the Niger towns of Agadez and Tahoua. Finland's Ari Vatanen won the 325-km stage, followed by Peugeot team mates Philippe Wambergue of France, Jacky Ickx of Belgium and Guy Frenquelin of France. Ickx remained overall leader — 21 minutes 11 seconds ahead of Vatanen. The change of terrain from shifting dunes to more stable scrub gave drivers a relatively easier ride, and organizer Gilbert Sabine told French television all competitors lost during the desert stages had now been located and were safe. "No one is lost any more. We spotted the last missing competitor this morning. They are all safe," he said. Belgian Mitsubishi driver Guy Colson dropped out of the race with engine problems.

Yorkshire turns down Viv Richards

LONDON (R) — English county Yorkshire, who have had a rigid policy of signing only players born inside their own boundaries, Thursday decided not to recruit West Indies cricket captain Viv Richards. Last month the club said an approach had been made on behalf of Richards offering his services for the 1989 season. Chairman Brian Walsh said Thursday the club's general committee had taken only five minutes to decide unanimously not to engage Richards "because we have to encourage and develop the young talent available." Walsh stressed that the discussion on Richards centred purely on his merits as a player and the question of outsiders representing the county had not been mentioned. Richards has not played county cricket since being sacked by Somerset in 1986.

Xiong's title wavers

HONG KONG (R) — Veteran Dane Morton Frost came back from the verge of defeat against up-and-coming Zhang Qingwu of China Thursday to increase his chances of a semi-final spot in the World Grand Prix badminton championship. The 30-year-old Frost was 15-4, 12-6 down to the hard-smashing Chinese. But experience and a cool head told Frost, winner of four events in 1988, took the gruelling group C match 4-15, 18-15, 15-8.

"I never give up — I'm a hard fighting man," said Frost, who needs a win over Indonesia's Eddy Kurniawan to ensure a place in the last four. "But there was a slight doubt in my mind that I would win."

Titleholder Xiong Guobao of China also took a step nearer the semis with a hard-fought 15-10, 17-15 victory over Nick Yates of England.

Xiong is the only unbeaten player in group A and victory over Luis Pongoh of Indonesia in his last group match will carry him through to the last four, which comprises the four group winners.

Johnson scandal takes its toll on season

TORONTO (AP) — The fallout from the Ben Johnson drug scandal is jeopardising the Canadian indoor track and field season.

Mazda, which has sponsored the elite track club the past three years for about \$300,000, has decided not to renew its contract in the face of growing suspicion that Mazda Optimist members are being blacklisted on the Canadian Grand Prix indoor circuit.

In addition to Johnson, the Mazda Optimist stable includes Olympic sprinters Angella Issajenko and Desai Williams, and hurdler Mark McKoy.

Johnson was stripped of his gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in September — three days after setting a world record in the men's 100-metre dash — when he tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Although cooling on its financial support of then club, a Mazda spokesman said the Japanese car company could resume its involvement after the Dublin inquiry into drugs in sport, which begins Jan. 11.

"We're waiting for the outcome of the inquiry to make a decision on what direction we should go," said Derek Miles, vice president, marketing at Mazda.

Two days after the Dublin inquiry begins, the indoor track season begins with a meet at Hamilton. Ticket sale are slow. "We may take it on the chin," assistant meet director Paul Gains said. "But we have to keep the sport going."

Gains said the slow sales may be due partly to waning interest that normally follows an Olympic year.

In 1988, with Johnson as the main attraction, 11,000 fans attended the meet at Copps Coliseum. This year, only one athlete affiliated with the Mazda Optimist club — women's quarter-miler Charmaine Crooks — has been invited to the Hamilton meet. "It's not a blacklist," Gains said. "I don't like the idea of people cheating."

"Are they all tarred with the same brush? It's easier for me to go with athletes I know about and feel are clean."

Crooks is the only runner competing in the Mazda Optimist colours at Hamilton and Sherbrooke, Quebec. But Sherbrooke meet organiser, Jean-Guy Ouellette, said Crooks was the only one who contacted him.

"I'm not inviting anybody. I'm waiting for phone calls," said Ouellette, who also is chairman of the Canadian Track and Field Association. "I'm not calling anybody."

The association's board of governors meets this weekend in Ottawa to discuss the status of McKoy, Williams and Courtney Brown for their behaviour in Seoul.

McKoy refused to run on the men's 400-meter relay — as did Brown — and left Seoul after Johnson tested positive.

Bruno arrives in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Frank Bruno, fed up with all the waiting, arrived in New York this week eager to start serious training for his off-delayed world heavyweight tilt against undisputed champion Mike Tyson.

"I mean business, serious business," the nattily attired Bruno said at a press conference following his Concord jet flight from London. "I'm not here for a picnic."

Bruno, stopping over en route to Fountain Valley, Arizona, where he will train for the February 25 bout in Las Vegas, said he hoped the frustration of five postponements was finally behind him.

"I've been waiting to fight Tyson for eight or nine months," the soft spoken Briton said. "There will be some serious suing

if he pulls out again." Professional and personal problems have dogged Tyson since his spectacular first-round knockout of previously unbeaten Michael Spinks last June for his 35th win without defeat.

Disputes with manager Bill Cayton put Tyson into the courts and he has since parted ways with longtime trainer Kevin Rooney.

His much-publicised domestic strife with estranged wife Robin Givens has also contributed to Tyson's pugilistic paralysis but public sympathy may soon turn to scorn for the 22-year-old champion, according to Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless.

"The world has felt sorry for Tyson," Lawless said. "But if he doesn't go through with this now, I think the world will be fed up

with him. Right now, he's holding the world up."

Bruno, whose wait for Tyson has left him without a bout since he stopped Joe Bugner last October in London, repeated a prediction that he would knock out the champion.

"I'm planning for a stoppage. That's my New Year's resolution," said Bruno, who has a 32-2 record. "I'm going to have to hurt him really bad."

Bruno said he was in the best mental and physical shape of his life and thought that Tyson, who has gone soft with months of inactivity, might be taking him lightly.

"I don't think he's taking me too seriously," Bruno, 27, said. "I'm glad — I think he's in for a shock."

English F.A. Cup — romance lives

LONDON (R) — An apprentice bricklayer, a bank manager and an insurance representative will seek to replace the established headline-makers of British soccer Saturday.

Sutton United, a minor league side with a ground that accommodates fewer than 10,000 spectators, will pit their team of part-time professionals against Coventry City, lying fourth in the English first division, in the third round of the F.A. Cup.

Sutton, the home team, had the option of switching the match against the 1987 F.A. Cup winners to another ground where a larger capacity would have offered greater financial reward.

Their manager Barrie Williams explained the decision to stay put at the club's Gander Green Lane ground.

"We could have gone for the finance by playing at a league ground or even switching the tie to Coventry, but we have gone for the romance instead," he said.

"Mind you, by playing at home we feel we are in with a chance of getting through to the next round and another big day."

"Besides that, most of our players are from this area. The

community has been good to us and this is our chance to repay them."

"There may only be 8,000 watching but as far as I am concerned this is the glamour tie of the round and we are approaching it in a mood of optimism," Williams added.

The apprentice bricklayer in the Sutton team is goalkeeper Trevor Roffey whose father also represented the club in an F.A. Cup tie against a major league side 19 years ago. On that occasion Leeds United beat Sutton 6-0.

"I can't remember much about dad's game, just all the press men and television cameras coming to our house beforehand," Roffey said.

Sutton hope to surprise Coventry with their dangerous strike force of Lenny Dennis, a Jamaican World Cup player, and Paul McKinnon, who has recently returned from playing in Sweden. Dennis has scored 23 goals in 28 appearances this season.

Williams said: "Under normal circumstances we would have no right to be on the same pitch as Coventry. But this is the cup and

if fate smiles on us we may produce a result which will shock the football world."

Only four of the 32 third-round ties Saturday and Sunday are between teams from the first division, including Manchester United's home encounter with Queen's Park Rangers.

Edwards nurses his wounds

HEATHROW (AP) — Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, one of the best-known losers in sports, flew home to Britain Thursday for medical treatment of ski jumping injuries from those who know him best.

Edwards said he checked out of a hospital in Innsbruck, Austria, where he was being treated for a broken collarbone, facial bruises and kidney injuries suffered in a fall during training on Tuesday.

The last-place finisher in both 70- and 90-metre jumps at last year's Winter Olympics who was maintained his tailend pace during the World Cup season. Edwards said he was heading for his hometown of Cheltenham, England, for more treatment.

"I'll be going to Cheltenham general hospital. They know me very well down there — I'm their best customer," Edwards said as he landed at Heathrow airport. Edwards said he was "feeling rough. I'm in agony, really," but vowed to return to the jumps this season.

"I'll be jumping again in three weeks in America," he said. "And I promise you that I will improve from my usual last place before the end of the season."

Also in his plans was a possible jump from the roof of a Las Vegas casino. Edwards said talks had been held about staging the stunt in September, with a fee of about \$90,000.

"I still plan to be a millionaire by the time I'm thirty — if I live that long," the 25-year-old said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1988 Tribune Media Services Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 84 QJ73 Q9 ♠ KJ982
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 Pass 2 ♠
What do you bid now?
A.—When partner makes a takeout double of a major, he guarantees the other major or a very powerful hand. Therefore, you should respond in your four-card major rather than the five-card minor. And two hearts is an underbid—make the invitational jump to three hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQJ76 Void A10843 ♠ KQ5
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—You jump shift only with one of two types of hand. Either you have a self-sufficient suit of your own, or excellent support for partner. Neither is the case here, so simply respond one spade. You can show your power with a jump shift or high reverse into diamonds at your next turn.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQJ76 Void A10843 ♠ KQ5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 Pass 2 ♠
What do you bid now?
A.—You should choose the high reverse of three diamonds. That is forcing, so there is no need for you to jump. Besides, your only makeable game could be three no trump. Don't bypass it!

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

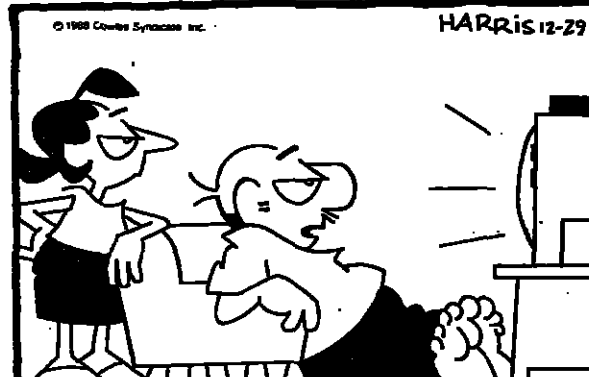
you hold:
♠ J63 Q7 K82 ♠ AQ1076
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 Pass 2 ♠
What do you bid now?
A.—Some number of no trump looks right with our balanced hand and honor card in every suit, but we just can't bring ourselves to make that bid without a sure stopper in either major. We'll settle for the unimaginative raise to three diamonds, and hope partner can move.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A963 AQJ962 72 ♠ Q
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 Pass 2 ♠
What do you bid now?
A.—For his vulnerable overall, partner must have a reasonable hand. Therefore, you want to communicate to him that you have a powerful hand in case big things are in store. Tell him of your strength by cue-bidding two diamonds. Note that that doesn't promise control of the enemy suit.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K7 KJ1092 ♠ AK754
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠
What do you bid now?
A.—Don't make a cue-bid in the enemy suit before you know where you want to play the hand! Simply plan to bid both your suits. Start by bidding three diamonds, which is a game force here, with the intention of showing your clubs next.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"New game show. If you can watch it without losing your self-respect you win a hundred bucks."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REPIK

TOABB

GAHOME

CRYGLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

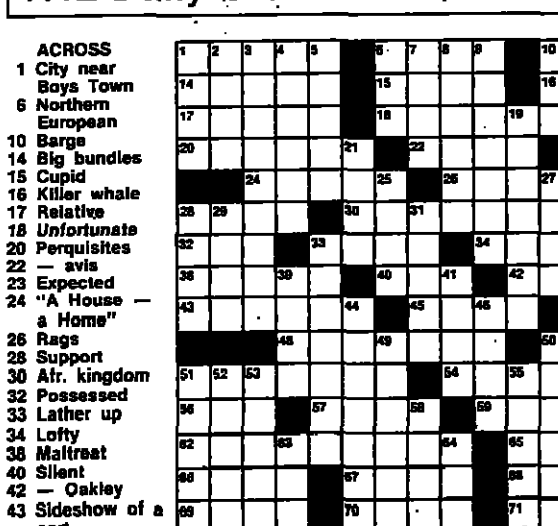
Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOYER PANDA BUSILY GAMBLE

Answer: How the sponge divers found their work—"ABSORBING"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

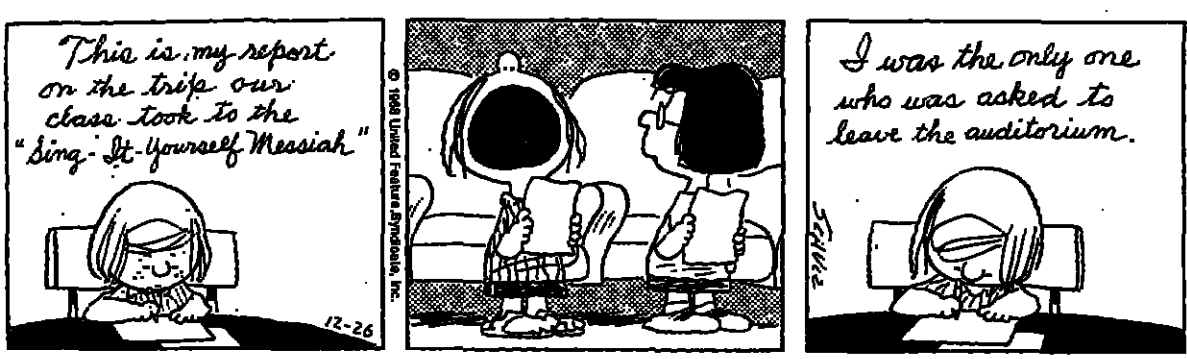


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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

6 Thai language 7 Asian river 8 Yam 9 in proportion 10 Helios 11 Unrefined 12 Happen 13 Vigils 14 Dolt 15 All alone 16 Meta, Nets or Jots 17 Ripped 18 Jazzy 19 husband 20 Indulge 21 Reject 22 Plunked 23 Uninformed 24 Sidelike 25 "we forget" 26 Killed 27 Suitable 28 Frantic 29 River 30 Guam city 31 City of light 32 "Republican" author 33 Self-images 34 Plaster 35 Belg. river 36 Possessive 37 Full of stuff.

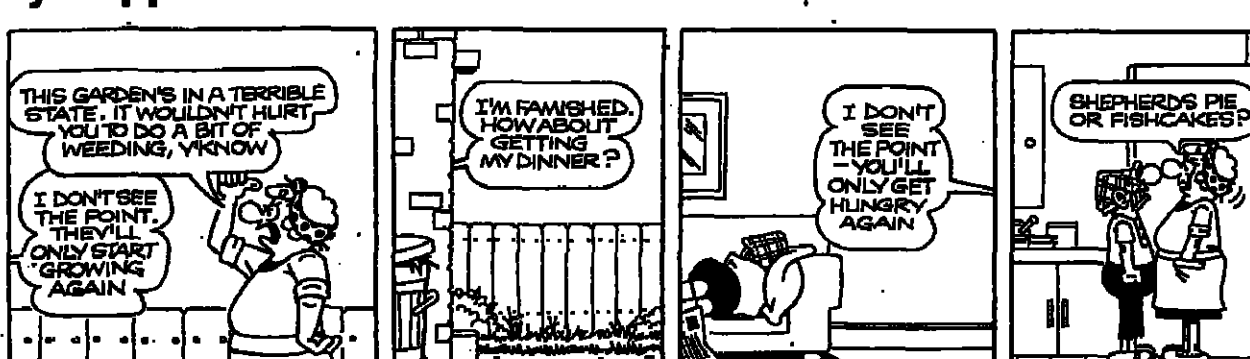
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Security forces brace for violent backlash from Sikhs

India hangs Gandhi killers

NEW DELHI (R) — The convicted killers of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were hanged in Delhi Friday morning, but rain and all-out security prevented immediate reaction by Sikh extremists who have sworn revenge.

NEW DELHI (R) — The convicted killers of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were hanged in Delhi Friday morning, but rain and all-out security prevented immediate reaction by Sikh extremists who have sworn revenge.

Satwant Singh, 24, one of two bodyguards who shot down the leader they were meant to protect, and Kehar Singh, 54, found guilty of plotting the assassination, were executed in Delhi's Tihar jail, ending two years of appeals and legal arguments since their conviction Jan. 23, 1986.

The other assassin, Beant Singh, was shot dead seconds after the attack October 31, 1984, and another alleged conspirator, Balbir Singh, was freed on appeal last August.

Prison authorities, fearing trouble if the bodies were given a public funeral, hastily cremated them inside the jail, ignoring Satwant's last wish that his eyes and other organs should be used for transplants.

The men's relatives, prevented even from approaching the prison walls at the execution time of 8 a.m., petitioned the supreme court to obtain at least their ashes.

They won a partial victory when the court ordered jailers to keep the remains in safe custody "with all sanctity" until further orders.

Unseasonal rain and snow over north India discouraged expected demonstrations by Sikh sympathisers. Only 100 people, mainly relatives and journalists, gathered outside the jail and police kept them well away from the walls.

Isolated incidents of stone-throwing were reported from West Delhi, but in most of the capital and in Sikh-majority Punjab state, Sikhs preferred to mark the executions by closing shops and offices and attending readings from their holy book in temples.

Amritsar, the Sikh holy city, was at a virtual standstill. Chandigarh, the Punjab capital, was scarcely more active.

The executions were the latest step in a bloody saga that began

when Gandhi ordered the army to flush out armed extremists who had taken over the Golden Temple of Amritsar.

The troops succeeded at the cost of 1,200 lives and the wrecking of holy shrines. Gandhi's assassination was the revenge of an outraged Sikh community.

Her killing led to a wave of anti-Sikh violence by India's majority Hindus, an estimated 4,000 people were killed, mainly in the capital.

The Punjab strife continues unabated and Sikh leader Manjit Singh commented after Friday's executions that an opportunity had been lost to heal old wounds.

"The granting of mercy would have paved the way for fostering unity and integrity of the country," he said in a statement.

Despite the calm, the army was on standby in Punjab and all available police on duty in Delhi. Some kind of reprisal by Sikh extremists, who Thursday threatened to "set the nation on fire," was considered a virtual certainty.

Their favoured "soft" targets are passengers on country buses, guests at wedding parties and migrant labourers.

Delhi residents recall a campaign of booby-trap bombs which killed 86 people, many of them children, in May 1985. With 70,000 armed men deployed against the extremists in Punjab, the capital was the likeliest target for the Sikhs' revenge.

Police in Punjab said three buses had been burned in the state Friday, apparently for defying extremist calls for three days of mourning.

Posters went up in the Amritsar and Tarn Taran areas, where extremists are particularly active, telling people to stay at home, close shops and businesses and keep vehicles off the roads. They threatened to "wipe out" the families of violators.

Only one violent death was reported in Punjab Friday.

In the first five days of January, 34 people were killed, police said. Punjab residents said they feared a fresh upsurge of violence once the tight security imposed for the executions eased.



Chinese students demonstrate at a Peking campus against the alleged molesting of Chinese women by African students

India withdraws first battalion from Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Agencies) — India has withdrawn one battalion of its 50,000 troops in Sri Lanka at the request of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a spokesman said Thursday.

Gurjit Singh, first secretary at the Indian embassy said the withdrawal took place in the past few days.

A second battalion will be sent home Jan. 8, he added.

India announced Jan. 1 that it would pull out two battalions of the troops sent to the island's northern and eastern areas in July 1987 to enforce a pact aimed at ending a Tamil separatist rebellion.

"I do not have details. The only information I have is that the first battalion left Sri Lanka in the past few days," he said.

The second battalion would leave Sunday by ship from the northwestern port Kankesanthurai, Singh added.

Indian officials said earlier between 2,000 and 3,000 soldiers would be withdrawn.

Premadasa asked Indian authorities Dec. 21 to announce the withdrawal before he was sworn in as president on Jan. 2.

Indian troops began arriving in Sri Lanka a few hours after Sri Lanka President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed a

pact to end a Tamil rebellion. The accord offered limited autonomy through provincial councils to minority Tamils campaigning for a separate state in the northern and eastern areas where most live.

The troops were assigned to collect weapons and ammunition from rebels and implement other provisions of the accord.

Several rebel groups accepted the pact but it was rejected by the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. They said it fell short of Tamil aspirations and continued to battle with the Indians.

Opposition parties denounced the pact as a sell-out to India and said the presence of foreign troops infringed Sri Lankan sovereignty.

Premadasa, during his campaign for the presidency, said he would ask Indian troops to withdraw soon after normalcy was restored in the north and east.

His main opponent at the Dec. 19 election, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, threatened to abrogate the pact and send back the Indian troops.

The presence of some 47,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka triggered resentment among Tamils and Sinhalese. The In-

African envoys rush to Nanking

PEKING (R) — African envoys flew to Nanking Friday to meet black students and Chinese officials in a bid to ease racial tension after a Christmas clash.

After a long delay in the snow-bound Chinese capital, Peking-based envoys from eight African countries left for the east China city where racial violence erupted, diplomats said.

They will meet the authorities at Hehai university and they should see the students who are still in detention," said an African diplomat.

Three Africans — from Ghana, Gambia and Benin — have been detained and were expected to be expelled from Hehai university where they have been studying.

Three Chinese men were also being held but officials in Nanking, contacted by telephone, said they were not students. They could not say what action might be taken against them.

The diplomats were making their second visit to Nanking since the clash that injured 13 people.

Their efforts were complicated by accusations that police tor-

tured blacks alleged to be linked to the clash.

African students have said they were stripped, beaten and shocked with electric truncheons. Chinese officials vehemently denied this.

Chinese authorities made concessions to African students to help ease tension.

In the east China city Hangzhou, officials at Zhejiang Agriculture University agreed to sign a pledge that it was not official policy to isolate blacks from Chinese on fears they carried the fatal virus AIDS.

African students, who had complained that officials were stirring up AIDS fears, ended a 10-day strike Friday.

The New China News Agency also quoted Chinese teachers at Hehai in Nanking as welcoming back 45 Africans kept by police at a guesthouse outside the city since Dec. 26, urging them to "have a good rest."

Hehai president Liang Ruiji also denied statements by Africans at that college that they were subjected to a "one girlfriend" policy.

Shelby becomes LAT editor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shelby Coffey III became editor of the Los Angeles Times Sunday, replacing William F. Thomas, who retired after 17 years. Coffey, 42, a former editor at the Washington Post, said he will work to continue giving readers comprehensive news coverage and will emphasize quality writing and analysis. "We will continue to give broad national and international coverage and to intensify our strong local coverage in Southern California," he said.

Times publisher Tom Johnson said Coffey, who has been known to inspire reporters by reciting poetry and philosophy, is "one of the most literate, intelligent people I have ever met." Coffey becomes the eighth editor in the paper's 107-year history. He will oversee an editorial staff of 1,206 at the Times, which has a daily circulation of 1.1 million and a Sunday circulation of 1.4 million.

Harrison Ford 'does not give up'

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Harrison Ford, who has had a string of successful films since he was discovered in "American Graffiti" 15 years ago, says his success comes from "not giving up." "Most people in this business gave up and went on to other things," Ford says in an interview with Parade magazine. "If you simply didn't give up, you would outlast the people who came in on the bus with you. I knew it was going to take 10 or 15 years." Ford, who starred as Han Solo in the "Star Wars" trilogy and plays a Wall Street deal maker in his newest film "Working Girl," said those others on the bus "were as talented as I am, or more talented." "But I feel secure because I know how hard I've worked," he added.

Celebrity hotel closes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Ambassador Hotel, where Charlie Chaplin lived, Robert F. Kennedy died, Marion Davies rode a horse through the lobby, and generations of stars entertained, closed its doors Tuesday. The last guests bid farewell to the 68-year-old Wilshire Boulevard landmark, an imposing building on 23 lush acres now in disrepair. It was one of the city's first luxury hotels, its palm-lined property exemplifying the California lifestyle. Pictures of happier days line the corridors of the 500-room hotel, but detracting from its elegant history now are peeling paint, worn rugs and stained wallpaper. The ambassador was host to top personalities in its heyday, including Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and entertainers Elvis Presley, Elizabeth Taylor, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Bing Crosby and Ray Charles.

Alligator farm buys collection

ST. AUGUSTINE (AP) — The Alligator Farm Wildlife Park has announced the purchase of a 33-acre ranch filled with rare and endangered crocodiles and plans to try to breed some that are near extinction in the wild. Mark Wise, general manager of the Alligator Farm, said the Anthony Ranch, previously owned by Arthur Jones, the inventor of Nautilus physical fitness equipment, is one of the world's largest research and breeding operations. Most of the rare species in the collection will remain in Anthony, but officials plan to bring some giant tortoises and several breeds of snakes and lizards to St. Augustine, Wise said. The Anthony Ranch will remain closed to the public but will be open to researchers and zoo officials, he said.

Body of woman found in freezer

DETROIT (R) — Police charged a Michigan man with murdering his missing wife after his daughter discovered her body in a basement freezer. Leonard Tyburski, 45, a dean of students at a Detroit High School, told neighbors three years ago that his wife Dorothy had left him and moved to Ohio. District Court Judge James Garber said Tyburski entered a not-guilty plea and was ordered jailed following a psychiatric examination to determine his competency to stand trial. Tyburski's daughter made the discovery when she pried open the padlocked freezer chest. Police said she had not been looking for the body, which was fully clothed and apparently had been in the freezer since her death. Police said they investigated Tyburski's disappearance for about two years but dropped the case because of lack of progress.

Idi Amin in Zaire, faces expulsion

KINSHASA (R) — Deposed Ugandan leader Idi Amin fled to Zaire two days ago on a false passport and will be expelled to Saudi Arabia, a Zaire official said Thursday.

Amin fled to Libya and then Saudi Arabia after Ugandan rebels backed by Tanzanian troops toppled him in 1979.

The official said Amin, who arrived in the Zairean capital Kinshasa with a forged Zairean passport, would probably be expelled before Saturday.

"Idi Amin is currently being questioned at the military airport," the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

"He decided to take a chance and come to Zaire. We cannot allow him in without endangering our relations with our neighbor Uganda where Idi Amin is still considered an outcast because of his past."

Amin was arrested on arrival after the pilot of the Air Zaire



Idi Amin

flight on which he was travelling recognised him and alerted Kinshasa airport before landing, the official said.

Amin fled from Saudi Arabia to the Nigerian capital Lagos from where he took a flight to Zaire via Gabon, he said.

The official said Amin had a passport which was part of a batch stolen from the Zairean external affairs department several years ago.

In Lagos, local newspapers reported that Amin passed through Nigeria using a false name Jan. 1-3.

Carlucci pushes drive to scrap, cut bases

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci Thursday approved closing or cutting operations at 11 major U.S. military bases and 80 other domestic defence installations in a cost-cutting step.

Unless Congress blocks the politically-sensitive move, set to begin Jan. 1 of next year, it would result in the first closing of an American base in 13 years.

No foreign bases are on the list, submitted by a bipartisan commission last week. Congress is expected to back the cuts although lawmakers have been reluctant to tackle base closings because of potential job losses.

The cuts are expected to eventually save \$693 million annually

in defence budget costs.

"Base closures are long overdue," Carlucci told a news conference Thursday. "I have just signed letters to the Congress stating my approval in total of the base closure and realignment recommendations."

Under the rules, both the defence secretary and Congress must accept the whole list or reject it without change.

Carlucci also told reporters that the Pentagon would ask Congress for an additional \$500 million in 1990 spending and the same amount in 1991 as the initial cost of closing installations.

The commission on Dec. 29 said it was recommending closing five large air force bases

Violence claims thousands in South Africa since 1984

JOHANNESBURG (R) — More than 3,500 people have been killed in political violence in South Africa since a nationwide uprising in black townships began in September 1984, according to a research group.

The group, a team of academics and civil rights workers called the indicator project of South Africa, said in a report released Thursday that the unrest was the worst in the country's history.

It produced figures showing that the death toll had increased despite the government's declaration of a nationwide state of emergency in June 1986 aimed at quelling the violence.

"What distinguishes the current conflict from previous cycles of political violence... is the scale of the conflict measured in terms

of ferocity, duration and national spread which have been greater than even before in South African history," the report said.

"The numbers of people killed, injured and detained... and the socio-economic losses sustained exceeded those of the defiance campaign of 1952, the 1960 Sharpeville crisis, the Soweto student rebellion of 1976/77 and the education boycotts of the early 1980s," the researchers added.

Pretoria's contention

The 1984 insurrection was caused by the white government's introduction of a new system of parliament which provided limited representation for mixed-race coloureds and Indians, but continued to exclude the voteless

black majority.

President F.W. Botha's government has repeatedly said its imposition of emergency rule, which gives police sweeping powers of detention without trial and allows strict censorship of media reports on political violence, has helped to reduce the level of unrest.

But the indicator project report said 930 people were killed in political violence between June 1987 and June 1988, compared with 731 deaths in the same period a year earlier.

The figures included more than 1,000 killed in Natal province over the past two years in a power struggle between the Zulu Inkatha movement and the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition.

Hundred thousands salute Pakistan's executed leader

LARKANA, Pakistan (R) — More than 200,000 people swarmed over the plains of Sind province Thursday in the first massive public salute in 11 years to the executed father of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, hanged by the military government in 1979 for conspiracy to murder a political opponent, was elevated to martyrdom on the 61st anniversary of his birth.

"Martyr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's memories will live forever," his daughter told a crowd of 50,000 she had led his grave near

Larkana.

"This is a great day for us," said Bhutto, addressing the crowd in her home language, Sindhi.

Bhutto, 35, became the first woman prime minister of an Islamic state just over one month ago after the first free elections since her father was ousted by a 1977 military coup.

People at the family graveside surrounded by rice fields in the village of Garhi Khuda Bux recited verses from the Koran while thousands of others danced to the beat of drums and Oriental flute music.

The city of Larkana was bedecked with large portraits of Bhutto and her father and the red, black and green flags of Pakistan People's Party founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto 21 years ago.

Bhutto cut a 450-kg cake at her home near the city. She was unable to cut a 27-kg cake at the graveside because of the crush of people.

A party spokesman said the former prime minister's birthday celebration was attended by more people than at any time during the 11-year military rule of Zia Ul Haq, killed in a mysterious plane crash last Au-

gust.

"People have come on buses, cars, motorcycles and trains from all four provinces of Pakistan," said a traffic police inspector.

In previous years, the celebrations had been small and followers alleged that troops and police prevented them from travelling to the village grave.

Most of Pakistan's daily newspapers contained a four-page supplement carrying the banner headline "Jay Bhutto" (long live Bhutto) and a drawing of the late leader standing with his arms raised in front of

crowds of supporters.

"It gives us strength under the whiplash. It gives courage walking defiantly to the gallows... it means so much to us, it drives us on," part of a tribute signed by Benazir read.

Her brothers, Mir Murtaza and Shahnawaz, were also hailed at the graveside. Both were implicated in the 1982 hijack of a Pakistan Airlines plane which forced Zia to release 54 political prisoners for the release of hostages.

Murtaza lives in London. Shahnawaz died at his home in France three years ago.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Police storm hijacked W. German bus

BONN (R) — Police commandos stormed a hijacked West German bus Friday, freeing two hostages and capturing two gunmen who had demanded a plane, money and beer, a police spokesman said. The gunmen seized the bus in a Bonn suburb at around midnight. They held a pistol to the head of one of three passengers and ordered the driver to go first to Cologne airport and then to Dusseldorf, 80 kilometres to the north. A woman was released early on while another passenger escaped during a stop. The hijackers, West German men in their 30s, demanded a ransom of up to \$550,000. Police cornered the bus in a Dusseldorf suburb five hours later. No shots were fired.

Nordic countries pay U.N. dues

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The five Nordic countries, in a letter circulated here Thursday, said they had all paid their 1989 assessed contributions to the U.N. regular budget and urged other U.N. members to pay early and in full. "The Nordic countries believe that one way of expressing their traditional, unwavering support for the United Nations is to pay their assessed contributions to the regular budget at the earliest possible date in the year," the U.N. representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden told Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

23 injured in train attack

BEIJING (AP) — A passenger threw a hand grenade Thursday into a crowded railway car in southwest China and injured 23 people, the official Xinhua news agency said. Three of the injured were in serious condition, it said. The door of the car was blown off and a hole was blasted in the floor. Police detained two brothers from Hebei, Yunnan province, for questioning about the explosion but did not immediately charge either, Xinhua said. It said the grenade apparently was thrown deliberately but the reason was not immediately known.

USSR, Turkey agree on talks mandate

VIENNA (R) — The Soviet Union and Turkey have reached a compromise which removes the final major obstacle to a new forum on conventional arms reduction, Western diplomats said Thursday. They said Turkey was satisfied with a Soviet proposal as to how much of Turkey's border territory should be included in the new Conventional Stability Talks (CST) — an issue which had delayed agreement on a mandate for the discussions. Turkey had wanted part of its territory bordering Iraq, Iran and Syria to be excluded from the area covered by the CST, but this insistence ran into Soviet objections. The diplomats declined to give details of the compromise.

Trotsky death discussed in Soviet press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet newspaper has publicly agreed with Western historians' long-time conclusion that former Soviet leader Josef Stalin ordered the assassination of fellow revolutionary and rival Leon Trotsky. Literaturnaya Gazeta published a full-page article in Wednesday's editions on Trotsky, a leader of the Russian revolution in 1917 who came to oppose both Stalin and Vladimir Lenin. Historian N. Vaserzky said, five paragraphs from the end: "Stalin could not forget past offenses and outrages. Being convinced that Trotsky was no longer needed, he apparently either took the decision himself or let the decision be known to the people around him: with Trotsky, 'it's time to finish him'." Trotsky was killed in Mexico in 1940.